Re:Monster

リ・モンスター

金斬児狐

Kaneki Kogitsune

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アルファポリス

Day 61

Since so much happened today, it'll be difficult to mention everything.

I'll do my best to not mention anything useless, and write about it from start to finish.

First, there are eight new Hobgoblins. Two of them were mages and one was a Cleric.

The one who became a Cleric was close friends with Gobuji-kun, so he might have been drawn into becoming a Cleric. The number of clerics increased as I expected, and I found myself grinning wickedly.

Next up is Gobumi-chan. When Gobumi-chan woke up today, she had become an entirely different race called a [Dhampir - Variant]. The change in her appearance isn't even comparable to the time when she ranked up from Goblin to Hobgoblin.

Or perhaps I should say, it's pointless to compare them.

She was at least 180 cm tall with a charming body, a narrow waist accentuated by her breasts that would overflow in your hands, a beautiful moon-like face more fleeting than an Elf's, glittering silver hair that flowed down to her waist, fine skin, and finally, red eyes with golden pupils.

She also acquired the ability [God of Ice's Divine Protection]; a wonderful ability that allows the user to generate and manipulate large amounts of ice. According to Gobujii, the blessing of a [God] is above that of a [Demigod]. It's extremely rare, even when compared to the rare blessings that Gobukichi-kun possesses.

Moreover, it's hard to imagine from her delicate appearance that her strength and agility was remarkably different from before. I dare say that she would be evenly matched with Gobukichi-kun whose base stats were higher than me.

Even with the blessing of a [God] the undead body of a vampire would be weak to the sun. But because she is a [Dhampir-Subspecies], she doesn't have this weakness.

As always, she'd be able to go out at any time, even during the day.

Gobumi-chan has become immensely beautiful. If you understand that much, then, there won't be a problem. But her appearance bothered me... I felt like I have seen that face somewhere before... like the adult face of a certain childhood friend.

I'll keep this story to myself for now as it's not a concern for today. Let's get back to the other changes. There are so many changes I'm having trouble grasping them all at once.

Now, on to Gobue-chan...

What Gobue-chan had turned into was a species of [Lord] called a [Half Earth Lord]. She was not from a subspecies.

She was at least 240 centimeters tall, approaching my height with a stout and solid muscular physique. She had two large horns that extended 20 centimeters out and curve back on her forehead. She's got short yellow hair and garnet-like eyes. Her skin appeared to be firm but still was soft like that of a woman. Her breasts were comparable to the size of watermelons but had better shape to them. Lastly, she had yellow looking stones around five centimeter in diameter embedded in her abdomen as well as under both her elbows. They appeared to be the same type of stone that Hobusei-san's [Lord] species had. Those stones, called "Ogre Orbs", were imbued in a [Lord]'s body and contained the abilities and characteristics of their species.

The abilities of her species generally helped with manipulating earth. One of them was related to mining; the ability [Complete Geological Comprehension] made her able to see the brittle points in the bedrock. This would help her mine different types of ore while also strengthening her body.

As a test, she tried digging through a wall with her bare hands which acted like a drill and the ground gave way. She dug more effectively barehanded now than when she was equipped with a pickaxe as a Hobgoblin.

With this development we could mine ore and spirit stones faster than ever before.

It also seems that she can use lightning based magic now, which can occasionally be useful during mining to locate ores. She'll be able to find a variety of ores now.

What can I say, Gobue-chan's mining has improved a lot. It's amazing to see the things you can accomplish when you push forward with your all towards something you love.

In combat Gobue-chan is nothing to fool with as well, she can easily break rocks with her bare hands. Imagine what would happen if something alive was caught with one of those blows.

A body is more fragile than bedrock, it would become paste.

She sure is scary.

Now, moving on to Hobusato-san.

Because Hobusato-san has always been good with a sword, she became a [Lord]. She turned into a [Half Bloody Lord]. Like Gobue-chan she is a normal [Lord] and not a subspecies.

She is two meters tall, with clearly defined muscles. She has modest breasts, and in the center of her forehead was a 15 centimeter ruby that extended out. She has carnelian colored pupils, slightly red skin, and long blood red hair that was bound by string into a ponytail. She also had two bright red Ogre Orbs about five centimeters in diameter embedded in her hands.

Note: a carnelian is a brownish red gemstone

Although she didn't gain the ability to use magic, her physical capabilities had grown in leaps and bounds. It seems that the [Bloody Lord] species excels in close quarters combat.

It is with a race that includes the "Blood Sword", and as is suggested by the blood in their name they can manipulate their own blood and the blood of others. There are conditions to do so though.

Even if she cannot use magic, these abilities made her strong. If we are talking about only direct combat ability she would likely be in third or fourth place in our group, and certainly be in the top five.

Although she might fall behind Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan in terms of physical power, in close quarters combat I expect that [Predict], [Precognition], and [Intuition] would even out the match.

At any rate, everyone mysteriously developed a black tattoo similar to mine like Hobusei-san, but they differed slightly in the design and placement.

Hobusato-san had one on her back, Gobue-chan on the arm, and Gobumi-chan on the leg. The other Hobgoblins had them on the leg, arm or neck.

I am not worried about them, because I can feel a power coming from them.

I expect that I'll understand what they're for in the future.

To celebrate their Ranking up I passed out two magic items to each Hobgoblin.

Gobumi-chan received a blue and white dress made with dark magic and bound together with steel like thread. She also got glasses related to her new ability that is a trait of her race, the [Eyes of Bewitchment]. These glasses work to seal the effects of her eyes' ability. It's not a good idea to look into her eyes for too long. I also gave her an enchanted claymore called the [Drop of Moonlight], the sword looks like a piece of artwork made from ice crystals.

Gobue-chan got two new weapons, the [Earth Goddess War Pick] and an enormous [Earth Goddess Shovel] as a set that have the capability to accommodate her new larger size. Because her old clothes didn't fit any more I also gave her a new set of clothes consisting of surplus magical items, and a new towel made from my thread to wipe away the sweat from her hard work.

To Hobusato-san, I gave a set of magic items consisting of full plate armor made with red iron, a red cape which is a good match for physical and magical attacks. Lastly, I gave her an enchanted long sword [Blood Princess], that has the ability to suck blood, though this hardly seems necessary with her abilities.

To the three people who became a race above and beyond that of a standard Hobgoblin, I supplied them with bracelets that have the storage ability. Gobukichi-kun and Hobusei-san already have identical bracelets.

But, yeah.

Gobumi-chan has the look of a noble's daughter. She doesn't pull the zipper in front all the way up, liberating the rest of her top. Gobue-chan is dressed like a farm boss. She wrapped the towel I made her around her body and tucked it into her breasts, exposing the top of her chest and her navel. Hobusato-san has the look of a knight with her whole body dyed in red.

Nevertheless, even though we had ranked up so much, we still call each other by our old names, like Goburou, Gobukichi-kun and such, and it was beginning to feel odd.

Well, we weren't Goblins anymore.

I asked Gobujii, and here's what he said our names would be:

- Goburou → Ogarou
- Gobukichi-kun → Ogakichi-kun
- Gobumi-chan → Dhammi-chan
- Gobue-chan → Asue-chan
- Hobusei-san → Supesei-san
- Hobusato-san → Burasato-san
- Gobuji-kun → Hobuji-kun
- Gobu-chan → Hobufu-chan
- etc.

TL Note : TOLD YOU THERE'S A REASON WE DIDN'T DO THE NAME CHANGES EARLIER - FB

The individuals who had ranked up each received new names.

Though I didn't expect Gobujii to have a good naming sense, this was terrible.

It's not like a person can decide his or her own name either though, so I let it go.

Also, because this will likely be asked, I will go ahead and mention it here.

If you take the average strength of the races and place them in order, it would look like this:

Dhampir ≧ Half Spell Lord = Half Earth Lord = Half Bloody Lord ≧ Ogre ≧ Elf > Kobold Foot Soldier > Kobold = Hobgoblin = Human > Goblin.

This list is only considering their races, it does not account for skills or weapons.

An Ogre can beat one of the Half-Lord race in terms of physical strength, but unfortunately their intelligence is usually lower, so their tactics are simpler and they are weaker.

There is not much of an opportunity for exceptional individuals.

Now, about the Elves and Kobolds.

I decided not to eat the Kobolds because they wanted to join us.

Well, even if I did eat them, they wouldn't strengthen any of my abilities. It appears that having them around won't hurt either, their loyalty seems genuine. I am excited to see what a Kobold will turn into after it ranks up. It is reasonable to assume that it could turn into a variety of things. Anyways, having minions that can move freely and scout in the future will be a great asset.

As far as the war between the humans and the Elves, I know Father Elf-san will request my help. There is still time, I'm sure a messenger will be come here soon.

If he does make a request I will accept it.

A large-scale war will give me the chance to gain new abilities and get stronger in general. I can also gain more knowledge about the military power, tactics, and methods of battle in this world.

It will also serve to strengthen ties with Father Elf-san, and that Elven wine will become easier to get a hold of.

That sake is seriously delicious!

For that reason, having a large number of minions can help in many ways, such as baiting the humans into a trap, constructing military camps, or launching surprise attacks and would expand the range of strategies I could use in the war.

This is why I decided not to kill them and instead made them my followers. Of course there's no way I'd trust them just like that. Within their group there are only a few that I trust completely.

So, as insurance, I gave all the Kobolds a different version of the cuffs that were enchanted with three abilities like the cuffs I distributed before, but further enhanced with a new ability [Enslave].

With this, the concern of wondering if any Kobolds defy me in the middle of a battle is solved. Even if they wanted to disobey, they could be used without any issues.

These cuffs were also given to the Elves, who were used for sex and breeding. However, these were enhanced with [Conceal].

I wanted to make them submit with [Enslave], while also avoiding any unnecessary trouble with the other elves by using [Conceal].

It seems that in the Elves' culture cutting a hole in their ears for the attachment of ornaments is taboo. Apparently their name will be struck from the clan forever, and they will be exiled. For that reason Elven slaves of this world had their long ears cut halfway. Installing these cuffs on their ears was mostly to try to deny them their last bit of resistance.

It was fine to just install the cuffs, but they could make up an excuse like "It was done against my will, I couldn't help it" to hide their real intentions, so I did this to strip off their remaining pride.

Well then.

Earlier Ogakichi-kun was asking for advice about his relationship with Asue-chan. So, I put him charge of the male elves. I told him "Try doing it with a male elf as practice before the real thing." while watching over them. I to made sure he knew to go easy on them to not break them. As a reward, I let the Goblins, whose social standing was low and normally had no chance to get a turn, have turns with the Males as well. The male Elves sure were pretty boys. They were satisfying enough.

I have to wonder if the higher ranked Hobgoblins are with the women for hours on end.

In the end I think it's better for the elves to live obediently.

The Elves who had all been imprisoned until now, to prevent escape, were allowed out of their cells.

I let them participate in training with the Kobolds and the others. To use an elite Elf only for sex and breeding would be wasteful. Apparently it's more difficult for Elves to get pregnant, so the numbers that will be more stable rather than what used to happen with human women.

Now that I don't have to worry about being disobeyed, the sex and breeding in the future will be more efficient. It might be good if we captured some humans.

The Elves, being out of prison for the first time in ages, were very happy about their freedom. It seems the change of scenery was a success.

Now its time to train the newcomers. We're working on being able to organize into ranks quickly and improving their endurance. It is the type of basic training that Gobukichi-kun and the other Goblins started with. Anyways, this would be good for the Kobolds, but the Elves being elite warriors could have skipped over the basic training, but because this was a new beginning they joined in.

The ones who already knew what to do didn't have any problems, but there were others that needed to work on a thing or two.

The training continued until they could no longer stand.

After they took a break, there weren't any Kobolds among them who could be chosen as a supervisor based on combat, strength, or character. A Goblin was appointed as supervisor to teach this new group the way to use logistics and how to be effective rear support in battle.

Those that remained now, were the Kobold children and the Elves. They were given additional combat lessons through sparring sessions.

I wasn't going to have them spar against Gobukichi-kun, or even any of Goblins, Hobgoblins, Elves, or Kobolds.

This training was also going to be an experiment.

I will have the Elves and Kobolds fight against Skeletons that I can produce with [Lesser Summoning: Undead].

I can generate them almost indefinitely, so there is no risk involved, and I even gain experience if they are defeated just by using the ability. Among the bones that remain after they're defeated are a variety of ingredients that can be used for blacksmithing or alchemy, so this process kills three birds with one stone.

The practice was held in the cave. It is a little gloomy, but it has to be because the strength of an undead wanes in daylight.

The undead come up from a black shadow on the ground. It seems like some sort of hallucination as they rise up from it.

The last time I summoned a skeleton something unexpected occurred.

Unlike the common Skeleton that was normally summoned, a Black Skeleton was summoned. It 2 meters tall, equipped with a jet black mantle and full plate armor that covered its entire body in brutally sharp looking metal.

It was armed with a curved saber and had a crimson kite shield for defense.

I could clearly see this was a higher ranked Skeleton compared to the past Skeletons.

It was comparable or maybe even better than a Greater Skeleton. The Skeleton system uses "Soul Equipment" to arm the body according to the ability of the individual. This means that weapons and armor are decided by the level of either [Greater Equipment Materialization] or [Equipment Materialization].

The high quality weapons and armor cannot be wielded by anyone else after the skeleton is destroyed because they disappear in a fog at when they're defeated. The quality of the equipment has improved to the point where it envelops the entire Skeleton. This Skeleton is without a doubt is the strongest I have seen yet.

I examined it quickly.

According to the examination, my [Lesser Summoning: Undead] ability somehow created it, even though it shouldn't be at a high enough level to do this. Normally the ability is strengthened by what I eat, but this is different, and this shows it's a good idea to practice with the abilities too.

I think its fitting to call it the Black Skeleton Knight.

The Black Skeleton Knight faced off against Elves equipped with Mithril short swords and round shields, but it was still victorious.

I could tell watching it fight that it had the skill of a true knight, complete with the robust defense of the kite shield, and the furious waves and slashes let out by its saber. I have to admit it had some brilliant movements.

The Black Skeleton Knight was resistant to slashing abilities and fatigue. It's well suited for drawn out conflict.

Even against the Elves there wasn't a big difference in skill, but in the end it lost due to the difference in physical strength.

So yeah, this guy isn't usable.

The experience gain was important, but as I was also trying to manage a number of Black Skeleton Knights. I let them get defeated by going easy. The experience gain was steadily decreasing as they were defeated though. I'm not quite sure why.

Later in the evening, I continued my experiments with [Lesser Summoning: Undead].

Day 61 Sidestory: Male Elf's POV

Including us elves, races other than humans are able to rank up by accumulating large amounts of exp and leveling to lvl 100. The difficulty and total exp required differs between races, but the fact that these cases are few and far between is a trait shared between all races, as despite reaching lvl 100 many are unable to rank up.

For example, goblins who are weak but in exchange matures rapidly, there are usually only two or three, at most 4, out of a hundred or so that ranks up to hobgoblins. I had little knowledge on goblins who I thought were the weakest until recently, but from what I heard this should be the standard.

Like this, those who fulfills the requirements and ranks up to stronger races dwindle with each rank. Due to such harsh demands, those who become Dragonewts, Lords, and Midians only appear once in thousands to ten thousands.

But, the group that captured and enslaved us, lead by a black Ogre that can be described as nothing less than impossible, ranks up in bulk each night.

The Dhampir-variant with beauty that rivals even those of elves. The Half Earth Lord with her heroic but warm nature. The Half Blood Lord that hid a blood coloured madness in her. And many other hob goblins.

This kind of thing, it should have been impossible. Utterly dismantles common sense. If it had been this easy for non-humans to rank up, by now the hatable humans would have been chased to the corners of the continent, not living leisurely as they are now.

Or, so I would have thought until a little while back. But at this point, it’s not much a surprise anymore.

For the common sense I had cultivated, living in the forest for so long, has already been shattered into pieces.

I burned myself in the strong libido I had never experienced until I came here. Adorning jewelry or opening holes on our ears should have been severe taboos, but using all means possible, we were cornered with no other choice but to don the ear cuffs. Forced into training harsh enough to make all our efforts up until now seem like child's play, we were not even allowed to pass out.

Faced with massive stress, the shock from encountering unknown, it brought upon changes that elves who spent their time leisurely cannot discern. Paying with my common sense, as otherwise it would be my sanity that deviates, the result of efforts to rebuilt my mentality, it should be perfectly understandable to become unfazed at all abnormalities.

Well then, for today's training, we fought black skeleton knights that the black ogre - renamed from Goburou to Ogarou - summoned. At first a part of me underestimated it, even though the skeleton was a knight that's stronger than normal, it is in the end of the same skeleton species. The reason was because my equipment consists of a mithril short sword that is effective against undead to which skeletons are grouped under, and a light but sturdy round shield, in addition to my confidence gained from daily training. If even one attack lands, I thought I would be able to easily win from the effects the mithril brings.

But contrary to all expectations, from the results alone I ultimately lost. I certainly am not inferior in terms of skill, but I lost against the Black Skeleton Knight's stamina. Originally the fight was to end before it turned into an endurance struggle, but the Black Skeleton Knight's capabilities exceeded my assumptions, though I did not receive any damage, neither could I land an attack. After it was over, I was frustrated, but also felt refreshed. I felt an easiness that I had never felt before.

Somewhere in my heart I thought, somehow, such living isn't bad, unexpectedly.

With the ear cuffs on, I can never meet my family and friends again, or even if I do, I would not have a place back home, but I don't feel such feelings like despair. Rather, I held a different sort of feelings. Perhaps the change in me, despite my disinterest for the outside world up until now, has something to do with this.

What is certain is that, this group is absolutely, outside our imagination.

While wondering what would happen to us now, feeling both eagerness and anxiety, I think I will continue living my life here.

Day 62

Using [Lesser Summoning: Undead], I once again went to work on raising everyone's levels yesterday.

I could confirm that it's possible to alter the summoned monsters according to my will. I could make different kinds of Black Skeletons; axemen, lancers, archers, and Mages were all possible, and if I wanted to go easy on the opponent I could even make simple white Skeletons.

It was even possible to summon moving, decomposing corpses called "Zombies", frail clusters of souls called "ghosts", and other undead types. I wanted to try eating the ghosts, but even I couldn't eat insubstantial creatures.

It appears that there are certain conditions that have to be met to eat a ghost in this world, so I swore in my heart that if I met someone who could do this that I'd eat his flesh.

Returning to the original topic, for the purpose of earning experience points, I created mainly Zombies and the ordinary white Skeletons; then I let them get defeated by the troops.

The Black Skeleton Knight is stronger than the others, and for this reason it was able to act as Ogakichi-kun's or Dhammi-chan's sparring partner, and was used as an instructor for the Kobolds and Elves respectively.

It was not able to talk beyond making rattling noises. It could communicate using rough gestures though.

Steadily strengthening this ability will make it terrifying. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean that there were no problems with the undead. Undead-type monsters have various restrictions like [Sunlight Vulnerability] and such.

Dhammi-chan is an undead too, specifically a Dhampir, but since she possessed a [God's Divine Protection] and is thus a subspecies, it isn't a problem for her, unlike for other undead.

Black Skeleton class monsters could somehow last ten minutes in sunlight, though they start emitting black smoke from all over their bodies, but their overall strength dropped so much that it couldn't even be compared to their usual power.

They got so weak that even the Kobolds could defeat them, that should be easy to understand.

That was what it was like for the Black Skeleton Knight Class of the Skeleton species, so weaker undead like zombies, ghosts, and the like couldn't even last ten seconds before being purified.

Though the Zombies were exorcised in the sunlight, their rotting bodies remained, and can be used to spread disease in enemy territory, or as material to fill up holes, or recycled as meat for Hobufu-chan who liked to eat them, but ghosts leave nothing behind and can't be used at all once the sun comes up.

It also hurts that they can be easily exorcised, specifically by using holy water or holy light.

Thinking about the forces that can fight during the day, the calculations went a little crazy.

Troubled over how we're supposed to overcome that, I stopped thinking about it for now. Today I was earnestly overseeing the training of the Elves and Kobolds.

The elves were originally hand picked elites, thus they could improve their skills simply by fighting Black Skeleton Knights and Black Skeleton Axemen one on one, so training them was easy.

I concerned myself more with coaching the Kobolds. The Kobolds, as a species, were about equivalent in power with Hobgoblins, perhaps higher, but anyways, here's our current composition:

Half-Lords: 3 Females
Ogres: 2 Males
Dhampir: 1 Female
Hobgoblins: 6 Males, 4 Females
Hobgoblins Mages: 3 Males, 2 Females
Hobgoblins Clerics: 1 Male, 1 Female
Goblins: 14 Males, 16 Females
Elder Goblins: 4 Males, 4 Females
Elves: 10 Males, 7 Females
Humans: 5 women
Kobold Footman : 1 Male
Kobolds: 18 Males, 10 Females, 4 children, and 3 elderly
119 total.
Including pets:
Three-Horned Horses: 5
Hind Bears: 3
Black Wolf Leader: 1
Black Wolfs: 8

So, it is a large group of 136 in total.

Even with these large numbers, our residence was originally a huge mine, and expansion work has been carried out so living space isn't a problem. However, with our current strength there's a large difference in our supplies of armament and food.

Weaklings and those with weak positions within the units are made to be gophers, the game that was hunted is primarily used as food. There are plenty of wild fruit and vegetables as well, since the sisters are in charge of the Goblins making delicious cuisine, the nutrition balance is not bad -- receive less food than others.

No, at the very least, they can eat. But, all living things want to fill their stomach after strenuous exercise, those in low positions will only get to partially fill their stomach. It's hard on them.

The biggest problem is armaments. In a world where the strong eat the weak, powerful weapons are important to increase the chances for survival.

You might be able to keep afloat by using fangs and teeth, yet, for the purposes of reach, the sharpness and durability - among other factors - of weapons used by humanoid races will give superior results.

But the weak remain weak, they get inferior weapons compared to others. As such they get viewed as weak by others and the possibility of them being targeted increases. Even though they're already weaker under normal circumstances.

Is it bad that I don't change this rule? Think about it, giving the weak good armaments would, to a certain degree, be a waste of treasure and most importantly the distribution will become unbalanced, leading to ruin.

I am aware of the disadvantages and merits. In order to cultivate their abilities, from now on I will never change this rule. Train them until they vomit blood, make them feel like they're dead to increase their individual power.

Well, amongst the Kobolds some are approaching level 100 and will rank up soon, biting into the higher positions and mixing it up.

Besides, truthfully, I carry some expectations for the young Kobold children, since they are in their growth periods.

Their race already excels in nimbleness, so I put a policy in place to emphasize it in their training sessions.

Day 63

Today I'm riding on Kumajirou, similarly Dhammi-chan and Redhead were mounted on their respective familiars, and walking behind us were the common foot soldier Kobolds which comprise our 17 fighting members, to go to the cave of the Kobolds.

The purpose is to seal the hole that was connected to the Velvet dungeon at the interior part of the cave, as well as to retrieve the little loot that the Kobolds had stored and left behind.

The Kobolds' cave was a 40 minute walk away.

After retrieving the luggage, I ordered Asue-chan to destroy the cave as she is best equipped to handle the task.

With this the first goal is finished.

Afterwards, I allowed the Kobolds to hunt. Armored Tanuki and etc were killed and brought home as food for the future. Lately the favorite target for hunting is the Black Wolf.

Though I still needed more familiars, I wanted to accumulate lots of linked experience; that's why I risked clashing with Black Wolves that I aggroed them into one big group.

While training is important, it is necessary to pile up actual combat experience that places one's life on the line as much as possible. I trained them in the basics of the basics for two days; the main thing now is to see whether or not they can leverage that. Well, I was aware that I was asking too much of them, but they had assistance from the cuffs, and if we didn't do this now, nothing would happen.

Let’s work to exhaustion. Though I didn't really expect that much of them, the Kobolds tried their best. They moved as I ordered, and the group of 12 black wolves were driven into a trap laid out by another Corps.

They were injured more or less severely since the unreasonable condition not to kill the black wolves was imposed on everyone, continued regeneration (Regen) was added on the cuffs so it was not a major problem because they easily recover from wounds of that level.

I was thinking this at the time, but the Kobolds might be an unexpectedly good find.

The brains of the captured Black Wolves were tampered quickly and turned into familiars. Afterwards, the next group of Black Wolves we found were successfully herded in the same way, thus the familiar we gained today were twelve Black Wolves. Only, neither of the heads of the two groups we captured today had the abilities of a "Leader". Regretfully those individuals were just the same as the others.

That said, we were able to get them a sufficient number of them, so for now I'll call it a success. As we were going back in high spirits due to the day's achievements, we encountered a Stamp Boar with its characteristic rocky snout pierced with an iron nose-ring.

"Just in time for a test of strength!", said Asue-chan eagerly as she dismounted from her favorite Triple Horned Horse to attack it from the front. Naturally, the opponent Stamp Boar, with its disposition to crush and eat anything that opposes it using its craggy snout, charged without any intent to run away.

Then, as the [Earth Goddess' War Pick], swung from right to left, hit the Boar and smashed through the boar's body.

The rock-like solid body of the Stamp Boar couldn't withstand one blow from Asue-chan, its front half was blown off.

Though it appears that I needed to adjust things, but well, things turned out this way—it had a body that was hard as stone, so for Asue-chan who could break stones with her bare

hands it would be a very easy enemy to kill—, that was what I thought, so I said nothing in particular and washed off the blood from her face using a water ball.

The carcass could be valuable food so I put it away into my Item Box, once I was back in the cave, we made it into hotpot and ate it.

At night, I was approached by Blacksmith-san while working on various things, she wanted me to come to the smithy.

I went with her, thinking about what could she possibly want; what I saw there was the figure of a halberd, freshly repaired.

I had overused the halberd during the life and death battle with the Red Bear previously and as a result it had lost its usefulness. I couldn't remember if I asked Blacksmith-san to fix it.

In short, the repaired version of it has been completed.

Furthermore, Blacksmith-san revised several areas, the master blacksmith proudly boasted.

First of all, the axe head which is the feature of the halberd, is made of an alloy produced by combining water spirit stone, wrought iron, and mithril. Because a water spirit stone is mixed in, water gushes out when it is shaken just like the spirit stone knife.

However only by shaking it will the exaggerated water tricks happen. I have already proven that moving it at a high velocity will turn the water into a blade. When used properly, it seems the range of the attack expands up to 3 meters.

The sharpness has been improved from the time with the knife, when the knife could almost have been called a blunt weapon without the water, even if water doesn't come out of the halberd it can be treated as an ordinary edged tool.

Then, there is the spearhead, it was made out of an alloy of spirit stone, wrought iron, and mithril just like the axe head. The spirit stone this time was a lightning spirit stone that gives off lightning. When thrust at high speed, it can fire a bolt of lightning from the tip, hitting distant enemies with an electric attack.

I thought that perhaps by using [Triple Stab], lightning would also be fired from the invisible spearheads, firing three lightning bolts at the enemy all at once.

What a convenient thing.

The pick on the opposite side from the axe head was likewise made from a similar alloy, the spirit stone used this time was fire spirit stone. As a test I took out a log from the Item Box and stabbed it with the spear, and fire came roaring out from where the pick pierced the log.

Inserted at the butt end was a tetrahedral polished earth spirit stone, stabbing the enemy with it makes it easier to use all of my Earth Control system abilities.

Above all, using the spirit stones in combination, the effects are greater than normal. It was probably equal to or greater than the knife I enchanted before, as I was thinking about why, Blacksmith-san told me.

Somehow, it seems that she got a new Job. Surprised, she didn't tell anyone and kept it a secret until she had finished making the halberd.

Right now, the only one who knew this was me, I was a little bit happy.

The name of the job was Spirit Smith, it seemed to be a rare job she got by clearing some troublesome conditions such as regularly handling various spirit stones and becoming proficient at handling it.

This seems to be the main reason for the increase in the abilities of the spirit stones used in the halberd.

I was so happy I hugged her. Recently, due to one thing or another I had been able to adjust my strength unconsciously.

The smile that Blacksmith-san gave me in my arms was very cute.

I got a bit fired up.

Day 64

The number of Hobgoblins increased by three today. I'm a little disappointed that there weren't Mages or Clerics this time.

There's usually one or two Mages per group, although even that's abnormal.

As always I gave each one a congratulatory gift.

After today's training, I let the Kobolds go into actual combat in pairs to secure food. If they're only fighting Skeletons, they can acquire experience efficiently, but they might get in a rut. On the other hand, people who fight a wide variety of races can develop practical skills.

I do intend to come out of the forest some day, so looking at the things to come, we should gather experience facing various monsters whilst we're here so that we'll be harder to beat.

For that reason, I had some spare time, so I made preparations for going out hunting alone.

The savory taste of a Stamp Boar was unforgettable. What's more, the new areas had a high likelihood of rewarding new abilities. It's about time that we tread on new habitats and ate new monsters.

I've already searched for the habitat of the Stamp Boar, so I'll be able to find it quickly because I know what to look for now.

As I was about to depart, I was stopped by Ogakichi-kun.

He wanted to talk somewhere private, so we went out of the cave and walked for a while. We started talking after I confirmed no one was around.

According to him, he had finally decided to confess to Asue-chan. His feelings became even stronger with his rank up.

Only problem is, he doesn't know what to say. He wants my advice.

He expects cheap consultancy service… is what I'd normally think, but Ogakichi-kun is my buddy.

So, I suppose coming to me for council would be… obvious right?

So much for today's plans to go Stamp Boar hunting, huh. We shall dedicate the time from noon to evening to plan.

And with that, Ogakichi-kun shall commence "Operation Confession" tonight.

The result of which we'll know in the morning.

Day 65

It was a success. What was? Ogakichi-kun's confession, of course.

Ogakichi-kun reported this to me, blushing, after I woke up today before pairing up for kata with him that had become my daily routine before morning practice.

Well, I expected it to be a success so I was not surprised. Perhaps Ogakichi-kun did not realize it, but Asue-chan had fallen for him since some time ago.

The intelligence that Asue-chan had already consulted with Dhammi-chan about it had fallen into my hands, so the rumor was definitely true.

There really was no worry about him getting rejected; I even secretly shared all the details of yesterday's strategy meeting with Dhammi-chan using the cuff-type communication devices in order to buy time to orchestrate their meeting properly.

The fact that things turned out this way was all a matter of course.

The only thing I was worried about is whether he would get too excited last night and break Asue-chan.

TL Note : He's an Ogre, but Asue-chan should be just as big.

Well, I mentioned previously that I had put Ogakichi-kun in charge of the male elves so he could get advance practice, but there was precedent where he broke various things his first time with a partner that had a 1 meter difference in physical size. He was assigned a 2 meter tall Elf, the biggest of them, and right now the Elf is being healed by Hobuji-kun and kept in bed.

Asue-chan is currently the top miner of spirit stones that pop up around the area, because of the influence of Velvet's Dungeon, and various rare metals, so it would put a dent in work efficiency if she couldn't work.

The current Asue-chan is an excavator-like existence.

I wonder if I should regulate her plans.

That was what I was thinking, but as far as the reports I've heard, everything seems to be fine.

Maybe it was thanks it not being Ogakichi-kun's first time, or that Asue-chan is tough, or because he honored the promise he made with me last night at the strategy meeting, it seems he was able to do it in moderation. It's a pleasant thing.

At any rate, during today's kumite, Ogakichi-kun was so spirited he took several of my punches.

Note: kumite is similar to kata in that it ‘s one of the three main sections of karate training.

With trembling knees he was still smiling. His high spirit after taking the hits was so frustrating I might have to make some black Skeletons to let out my feelings on. I started on that immediately.

Sparring finished at noon. Ogakichi-kun and I were heading out to go capture Hind Bears when Dhammi-chan and Asue-chan came up and said they wanted to come along.

When I asked Asue-chan about how her mining was progressing, she said she had been steadfastly working all morning and had met her quota, so for the first time in a while the four of us went hunting.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to encounter any Hind Bears as we hoped, but we succeeded in hunting:

5 Stamp Boars
6 Poison Mantises with 1-meter bodies and sickles dripping with purple venom
4 Rhinoceros Beetles with 1-meter long horns and lustrous black iron-like exoskeletons
5 Argiope
4 Demon Spiders
3 Messenger Locusts grey-shelled and 60cm long
11 Yellow Monkeys with yellow fur and strangely-growing tails.

As expected from an area that we haven't been to before, there were lots of monsters that I hadn't eaten yet. Unfortunately, the shelled insect-types like the Poison Mantises and Rhinoceros Beetles would be poisonous if anyone else ate them, so the stock of the area weren't great.

Unfortunately. Yeah, Unfortunately.

I stripped the parts that didn't seem to have any use off them and tossed them in my item box. I crunchingly ate what was left. Feeling awkward that I was the only one eating, I had the other three eat two Yellow Monkeys each.

Ability learned: [Molt]
Ability learned: [Elytron Generation]
Ability learned: [End Edge]
Ability learned: [Silent Kill]
Ability learned: [Horn Blow]
Ability learned: [Dissonance]
Ability learned: [Parasite]
Ability learned: [Improved Jumping Power]
Ability learned: [Strong Vitality]
Ability learned: [Exoskeleton]
Ability learned: [Wrought Iron Shell Armor]
Ability learned: [Surging Combat Instinct]
Ability learned: [Cold Vulnerability]

I became a henshin hero.

Well, when I ate the rhinoceros beetle I obtained [Exoskeleton]. My personal armor I was wearing that was created from the red bear was immediately taken the instant I activated it. The carapace had a unique red luster to it and I looked a humanoid stagbeetle that was 2 meters and 50 cm tall. I was completely covered by the armor.

I couldn't figure out why it made me look like a stag beetle when I ate a Rhinoceros Beetle. My horns must be to blame.

When I focused on my slightly curved, sword-like, pair of horns, I could get them to move. As a test I held a tree in between them, and *slash*, I was able to cut it. I didn't feel the slightest bit of resistance, my horns were very sharp.

I could really get used to this.

I looked over exoskeleton for a bit.

I assumed I could figure out how the skeletal structure worked, which was awfully easy to move in yet extremely sturdy. I tested it by having Ogakichi-kun hit me and while the part he hit was dented a little, I did not feel any pain. It seems like there was a mechanism incorporated into it that reduced damage by dispersing the impact throughout the exoskeleton.

Moreover, it felt like wearing the armor I used when I was deployed for work before my reincarnation, a power suit made from biometal. Eventually I got used to it and I didn't have even a slight feeling of my movement being obstructed.

Moreover, the exoskeleton seemed to even have power assist. I couldn't find any faults in it. Well, maybe being too conspicuous is one.

Yeah, well, this was an extremely good ability.

Only, after a brief test, I apparently will be stark naked as soon if I dismiss the [Exoskeleton]. It was okay though, since I had the trousers I made on; I don't actually have a stripping hobby.

I was a little hurt that my old armor, full of memories from my fight with the Red Bear disappeared.

Well, as I was focused on my [Ability [Exoskeleton]

Entry 1 [Red Bear Beast King's Prestige] registered
Entry 2 [ ] empty
Entry 3 [ ] empty
Entry 4 [ ] empty
Entry 5 [ ] empty

[4 more form entries remaining. Which entry number would you like to equip?]

was displayed inside my head, so it didn't completely disappear. I was thankful for that.

It looks like I was able to change forms over the course of battle depending on what I needed. It was a handy ability.

Also, it was nice that I could produce wings that enabled me to fly, but the flight controls were more difficult than I had imagined.

I should practice when I get home.

Being extremely pleased with this outcome, I grabbed my spoils, returned home, and ate them.

Taste of Stamp Boar meat never disappointed.

Ability [Reckless Charge] learned

Ability [Tail Attack] learned

After that, I tried some flight practice, crafted a couple items, and then dropped to sleep.

Mhm, excellent day.

Day 66

Today was the first time it rained in quite a while, so I decided to go bother Redhead, Blacksmith-san, the Sisters, and Alchemist-san. Well, they're usually asleep together at nights and running errands during day, this gave me very little time to pamper them by themselves.

After earning [Noire Soldier], Redhead's attacks were relentlessly brutal. Up until now, she was equal in terms of skill but fell short in terms of raw strength. She really is beginning to catch up.

Lately, she's been coming to me saying "Come train with me, I wanna spar" which I find adorable. Hard to explain it.

You know that feeling when a puppy come over to play showing it's adorable face? A miniature toy dog at that, wagging its all over the place. Something like that I suppose.

To most, she might resemble a fierce doberman, I on the other hand see a little puppy running up to me.

And that's how I spent the morning, playing with Redhead.

I'm gonna bother Blacksmith-san next.

Lately the Elves Kirue and Arue – these were the ones guarding the foolish male Elf from before, anyway I'll just refer to them as "Guard Elves" for simplicity – have been enthusiastic about crafting mithril alloys. The workshop was littered with knives and shortswords.

The Guard Elves were the only ones among the Elves I captured that could craft with Mithril. Giving the task to them is what I'd call having the right man for the right job.

Apparently those two are daughters from a good family with a splendid lineage.

By the way, not all Elves are familiar with Mithril crafting. Blacksmith families passed the technique down through the generations; that is why most Elves aren't familiar with the process and can't craft with it. These two were elites who not only received training but also had crafting passed onto them by their lineage.

Well, there is a limit to how much two people can make, but that can't be helped.

I put in a request with for a repeating crossbow. Blacksmith-san and the Guard Elves were each trying to come up with something. I was wondering if there was a successful development. I wanted them to tell me when it was ready.

The repeating crossbow loses out to the conventional bow in range, but that doesn't matter, it rains havoc on the opposition.

Note: a repeating crossbow is a real weapon.

It seems Blacksmith-san's been doing great lately. Prototypes of many new weapons have been made and tested by trainee Goblins.

The results seem promising. We had many new weapons in our arsenal.

I wanted to them to mass produce the repeating crossbow. Taking the opportunity of me being here, the Guard Elves took the mithril that was extracted from my silver arm as an ingot. Though the composition of the mithril taken from my silver arm was close it's still a counterfeit, with this my personal products will be made as I ask for them.

A blushing Blacksmith-san, with her chest puffed out in pride is too lovely. Without realizing it, my mouth was hanging open.

After that, we exchanged various opinions.

I went to the Sisters place in the evening.

Recently they have been working hard at their new job [Chief Cook], being in charge of preparing food for the Goblin commanders.

Since they ate frequently, if the Sisters didn't start cooking early there wouldn't be enough. Fortunately their utensils, that Blacksmith-san made, could be put to multiple uses; at any rate, the kitchen had become similar to a battlefield.

I decided to join in. I started chopping the food. Even if I look like this, I can still cook fairly well.

While I was glad when Aoi cooked, despite being able to study and exercise, among other things, Aoi was a terrible cook. I had the pitiable experience of eating her food.

That Aoi.. I wonder what happened to her after I was stabbed.

Note: Aoi = the stalker from the very start.

After the rice preparation was finished I worked until evening came. Together with the two sisters, we started brainstorming up new food kinds to make.

The goal was the reproduction of food from my previous life. Right now, potato chips could be made as well as other foods. The ingredients available were completely different from my previous existence, I thought they'd be hard to make, but after I consulted with the two sisters, they finished it relatively quickly, so I wasn't worried.

The food quest was interesting.

After the meal I visited Alchemist-san.

Recently Alchemist-san had devoted herself to manufacturing an original magical item using skeleton bones; the results of which I hadn't seen yet.

I was planning to check on the progress now.. So, I headed over to ask her about it. She wouldn't tell me. It was anti-climatic.

However, she did have a surprise for me.

She showed me the whittled bones of a Black Skeleton she had made into rustic black stakes. There were 10 of them, supposedly their ability was "a person stabbed by this is unable to leave for a fixed amount of time".

"Amazing, I'm really impressed with these; I'll make sure to cherish them," I said.

It seems like Alchemist-san gained a new [Job], but she's being quiet about it.

Nevertheless, I think her lovely way of speaking attached to the smiling face is foul play; an ordinarily cool girl that displays impish behavior.

While flirting stealthily, just like before, the intruders started coming in one after another.

I definitely won't say what happened afterwards.

Day 67

Six messengers from Father Elf-san arrived a little past noon. Though they came without an appointment, I let them through to hear what they had to say, and because I understood they weren't trying to be rude.

The elite elves were participating in the training in the great hall when we entered and spread out immediately. However, the messengers and others never said anything.

Only for an instant did they give them scornful glances towards them.

Right now, because of [Conceal] that I added to their cuffs, the elite elves seem to possess darker bodies, so they look like Dark Elves. I don't think the Elf messengers will notice they were from the same Elf village with just a glance.

As for the why they gave them scornful looks, in fantasy it is often the case that "light" and "dark" elves have a bad relationship. Considering that, I'm sure that's the case here as well. This is good.

When the elite elves were practicing, it looked like some of the Elf messengers wanted to say something, but in the end they said nothing. After being gone such a long time, the elite Elves could no longer return.

Afterwards, I brought the Elf messengers to my workshop that was also my private room. I served the tea that I received from Father Elf-san. Unfortunately, I don't have a sofa, I only have a single chair made from my thread.

The one that sat down probably had the role of negotiatiator; the others seemed to be escorts.

Their side started the conversation.

Although I was already aware it was gonna happen, the human army seemed to have arrived at last. They were using the routes I told the Elves about before. Apparently they brought a tremendous amount of military forces.

Even with the magic items I gave them, the Elves are still anxious about the fight with the human army. The hole left behind when I made the Elite Elves my subordinates was quite large, so they came to us to request assistance.

If these Elves knew what happened to them they didn't show any signs of it. They only said they went missing as a result of the idiot who mobilized them for his own personal use.

They said their whereabouts are still unknown. The Elves searched for any signs of them but because nothing had come up by now they assumed they were dead.

At any rate, I wonder if Father Elf-san manipulated the information, I'm grateful if so.

After exchanging pleasantries, we started to talk about the request.

So, our mission in a nutshell is to either repel or destroy the Human army! It would be good if it was within our capabilities to destroy them. We can strategically retreat, but running from the enemy wouldn't be allowed. Although I don't think the meaning will change much.

The reward was 40 sets of Mithril short swords, round shields, and chain mail, 10 Mithril ingots, 3000 Mithril arrows, and general magic items that produced light, etc.

Based on my achievements, it seems they would give us even more. We also could keep any items we plundered.

They asked whether I would accept these terms and of course I said yes.

My only condition was that we would be able to operate freely. Instead of fighting head on, guerrilla tactics is what will bring us victory. Fighting straight on would be a last resort.

For the sake of easily exchanging information, I gave the Elf messenger a bracelet with the communication feature to give to Father Elf-san.

After seeing them off they returned to the Elven Village, I dispatched one my clones as a scout. Collecting information on how the war was progressing would be extremely important.

At any rate, the mercenary corps << Parabellum >> had their first job.

Day 68

At three in the morning we ran in the forest still shrouded in darkness.

We're not taking all our members because we needed mobility above all else; I sat on Kumajirou at the lead with only 36 people with me riding Familiars. The others have stayed in the cave.

The reason we're moving now is to launch a surprise attack on the human army's garrison one of my clones discovered.

The force we were attacking had around 800 people. If you include the Familiars we had 73. There was too big a difference in numbers, if we were to attack head on, it would result in our deaths.

Even for me, attacking an enemy who not only is large in numbers, but whose combat abilities I do not completely understand is just too risky.

However, at night the situation was in our favor.

If I continue summoning Black Skeletons and Zombies we're unlikely to lose to their superior numbers. It'd be bad if I exhausted my magic to create the undead, but I can absorb the mana accumulated in the darkness so I won't run out.

If it gets dangerous we can simply escape. It would be extremely difficult for humans, who don't have night vision like us, to pursue.

Therefore, we launched the surprise attack; we didn't even need to retreat. It took around an hour to completely wipe them out.

The operation went smoothly.

We approached secretly.

→We had detected the lookouts in the semi-transparent barrier around us.

→We had scattered about in order to encircle them.

→After confirming everyone was in place, I destroyed the barrier with a javelin made from my Demise magic, then Asue-chan surrounded them with a four meter high mud wall.

→Then I signaled the mages. Dhammi-chan, Supesei-san, and the best of the mage corps created explosions all over the enemy lines. In an instant, several hundred units of the humans were dead.

→While I was generating approximately 10 undead a second, I had changed my left arm into a ballista and was firing spears created by my Demise magic.

→After brutally killing the small-fry in ten seconds, a silver armored Female Knight accompanied by a white clergyman, a crimson swordswoman, and a jet black magician, plus some others, exited the large tent in the center, clearing a portion of the Zombies and Black Skeletons.

→Their concentrated attack kept the Black Skeletons at bay.

→While this was going on the beautiful women were taken prisoner. We didn't take any of the ugly ones.

→With my halberd in hand on the back of my Hind Bear Kumajirou and Black Wolf Leader Kurosaburo at our side I rode to meet the remaining elite forces. Ogakichi-kun with his Hind Bear followed me while Supesei-san sat atop her Hind Bear chanting spells. After me Dhammi-chan wielding [Drop of Moonlight], her claymore of ice, in one hand while spreading [Eyes of Bewitchment], Asue-chan smiling with her gigantic War Pick, and Burasato-san who changed into a red knight, simultaneously releasing 30 blood swords into the surroundings followed.

→An unrivaled stampede; a perfect subjugation.

→The fight ended with this.

If I look back, it was a cruel battle. No, this might have been a one-sided humiliation.

Well, I'll put that aside.

The undead shouldered all of the injuries; so we had no casualties. It looks like the women, besides the exceptional ones, will be killed. I think it's likely that after their defeat most of the humans will be gone. Just in case, I'll scatter the black skeletons throughout the surroundings.

They have until sunlight before they are purified, but even if they vanish, since they are only insurance, it won't be an problem

We gained prisoners that will become necessary for breeding; in addition there was a large amount of army provisions. I gained a lot, especially women and magical items.

Moreover, since the longer I wait to eat my prey decreases the chance of me securing an ability, I found the best the specimens and ate them then and there.

Ability learned: 【Braveheart】
Ability learned: 【Trip】
Ability learned: 【Army Leadership】
Ability learned: 【Job-Captain】
Ability learned: 【Job-Heavy Swordsman】
Ability learned: 【Job-Minstrel】
Ability learned: 【Speed Reading】
Ability learned: 【Job-Strategist】
Ability learned: 【Smithing】

Ability learned: 【Improved Evasion Rate】

Ability learned: 【Large Spin Slash】

Ability learned: 【Cross Slash】

Ability learned: 【Hard Qigong】

Ability learned: 【Soft Qigong】

Ability learned: 【Job-Spearman】

Ability learned: 【Job-Slave】

Ability learned: 【Job-Farmer】

Ability learned: 【Job-Monk】

Ability learned: 【Unilateral Sense of Justice】

Ability learned: 【Pure Faith】

Ability learned: 【Mindless Acceptance】

Ability learned: 【Chain-Soul】

Ability learned: 【Job-Heavy Warrior】

Ability learned: 【Job-Light Warrior】

This is gre~at.

I'm so glad I joined the war.

Afterwards, we took the captives, who were put to sleep with toxins, and the loot home. Aphrodisiacs similar to the ones I gave elite Elves were administered to the women we brought into the prison.

The human males we drugged were not as attractive as Elf males. The plan is to have the men do manual labor and become information sources.

Since the men will be doing something different than the women, they will be put in slave collars immediately.

My only compassion is to not killing them. I wonder if I should have them work until they die.

Well, I wonder how many days the women can endure their urges. I sent a report to Father Elf-san detailing what happened and what we gained from the battle.

I was very surprised by the report we got just before noon; if this is right, then five barrels of Elven wine will be brought here directly by Father Elf-san and his escort and will arrive at approximately 3pm.

“I see, cheers.”

After a light alcohol gathering, Father Elf-san went home.

Well then, how are the prisoners? I think I’ll go and see; my patience is at it’s limits. I only reacted to the courageously fighting Female Knight-san I fought against; her haughty manner was amazing.

Huh? A great nobleman's daughter? hee~, hmm. That doesn't mean anything to me as I am now.

After all, I’m not human, I’m an Ogre now.

The circumstances of a human are irrelevant to monsters. But, I’ll allow it for now.

Afterwards, I loaned the male prisoners to the Goblin and Kobold females who requested them. The men’s reactions were amusing.

But Female Knight-san and the women's first partner naturally has to be me…

Day 68 Sidestory: Female Knight's POV

After sunset, the parts of the forest illuminated by moonlight fall under the domain of monsters. Traveling in the forest at night would be suicidal even with a huge army. In the past, there are documented cases of invading armies being annihilated. Attacked by monsters that can move freely in the darkness.

Hence, we were cautious in selecting our campsite. We chose an open area where we could arrange a rotation of lookouts. Additionally, a magic barrier was established around the perimeters to ensure we were protected from monsters. Our magician who erected the magic barrier is a trusted adventurer and friend to my family. A seasoned campaigner whose ability cannot be questioned. I was informed that there were only three local threats that had the potential to break the magic barrier;

1) The main Elf army.

2) 2 or more Hind bears (The strongest monster species in this forest).

3) The strongest individual monster in this forest: the Red Hind Bear (Mountain Lord).

Feeling secure once the camp and barrier had been established, I removed my armor and my magic estoc [Moon Sword] to put on a more comfortable attire which exposed my thighs and shoulders. I did this despite the fact that I had been previously warned by some male servants to wear more modest clothes; I feel it's more important to unwind at the end of the day.

Whilst I was considering why the servants were being so uptight, Waisury the magician (who erected the magic barrier) entered my tent,

[Thank you for your good work, Lady Therese, splendid command today.]

[Thank you, Lord Waisury]

[However, I must warn you that our supply lines are being stretched. Perhaps we should slow down to make sure we're fully prepared for when the real battle begins]

[Perhaps, but to cure the princess's sickness, this war must end quickly. A drawn out conflict will build up a lot of grievances. Our best chance for a peaceful resolution is to minimize bloodshed for both the Elves and our allies.]

I looked confidently at Lord Waisury as I made the last statement. Holding my gaze, Lord Waisury smiled approvingly,

[Lady Therese is kind]

[I'm not so kind when I'm forced to take a life in battle, but….I accept it as part of my knighthood.] I smiled.

Suddenly my stomach grumbled loudly. Embarrassed as I was, I did not know how to react.

「……」

Lord Waisury and I stared at each other for a while. I realized my face was gradually glowing red from the silliness earlier. Flustered, I decided to change the topic quickly.

[S..speaking of which, you have yet to have supper, L..Lord Waisury, do you want to e..eat together?]

[kukuku. ……yes, I would be delighted]

With a small laugh, Lord Waisury accepted. I gave instructions to the servants while enduring the embarrassing wait until the meal arrived. Though I am the commander of this unit, this is technically a battlefield. Because of this, the food was not a grand meal like we were used to, but rather a simple vegetable soup and hard bread, ham cow meat, with

other simple things like langdo with its distinctive sour taste. Tea was served to keep our throats moist during the meal, and filled one's mouth with soup and bread. As a result of my fatigue, even though the meal was simple I enjoyed it fullheartedly... Yeah, it was delicious! Driven by appetite, the bread seemed to be slowly disappearing from my hands.

I noticed Lord Waisury observing me in amusement.

[Lord Waisury, What's so funny?] I asked pointedly.

[No, no... it's just that the usual stoic Lady Therese looks quite lovely while eating, and I was just admiring your table manners]

[Admiring my manners? I was unaware Lord Waisury had such an interest in me.]

[No, it's not like that!]

[Well... Care to elaborate?]

[Hmm... how should I say this... I did not mean to offend the commander! Hmm... how should I apologise? This is difficult...]

I smiled wryly as Lord Waisury looked seriously flustered by my fake umbrage. I finished eating the second bread. Even though I wanted to eat about six more servings, I felt a little self-conscious seeing how Lord Waisury hadn't even taken a single bite of his food. As I was about to tell him to start eating I heard a loud noise. “PARIN!”, a crash that sounded like broken glass was heard from outside.

[Hm? What sound is th---] I asked Lord Waisury.

[IMPOSSIBLE!]

Lord Waisury stood up with a face of open astonishment.

[W... what happened Lord Waisury?]

[My magic barrier, It was broken! I don't know what or who broke it, but I'm certain it's an enemy. Please commander, get equipped quickly!]

In the short time Lord Waisury finished his sentence, the enemy's attack had quickly begun. I could hear roaring sounds outside. Suddenly the ground and tent was shaken violently from the impact of something. “BATABATABATA”. Fortunately our military grade tent was made of sturdy fabric. The battle cries outside the tent began to escalate. I paid close attention to create an overview of the situation.

[Enemy attack-----!!! Enemy attack----!!]

[All units prepare for combat! Move if you don't want to die!!]

[Argh--!!! UWAAAAA----!!!!!]

[My arm, my AARRRMmmm!!!]

[Confirmed! Bombardment of sorcery. Enemy has a mage! Take cover!]

[MEDIC, MEEEDIIIC!!!]

[Enemy confirmed. The enemy is an undead army! I repeat, a large army of the undead!]

[DON’t Die, Don’t You DiE DAmmmit!!]

[Cold..... So cold, mamaaaaa]

[Spread out! They're being controlled by sorcery!!]

Hearing the voices and screams outside the tent, I hurriedly equipped my armor and magic blade [Moon Sword]. Lastly, I put on my cloak of enchantment (strengthened by an exclusive blacksmith), which acts as a substitute for a shield. As my preparation was completed, I could hear footsteps at the back of the tent. I knew the two who entered well.

[Excuse me, Commander]

[The enemy is a Black Skeleton army! In addition a Hobgoblin Mage has been spotted]

I was calm while listening to their report, I gave orders to the two adjutants – Behn, a 22 years old Priest and Levias, a Swordsman equipped with red armour.

[Annihilate the enemy. Come with us. Lord Waisury!]

[Of course! To victory!]

[Yes, of course!]

I honestly abhor needless bloodshed. However, my men depended on me to take the initiative. In order to save the lives of my men, I must take the life of the enemy. With my resolution set, we proceed to the battlefield. Determined to win.

As she walked out to fight, Therese's eyes filled with resolve, she was a figure of noble beauty, brimming with confidence that she will lead her men to victory. What Therese at this moment doesn't know….is that this is an enemy unlike any she had ever faced.

Outside a tent is burning with crimson flame in the moonlit night, while it's not ideal, this does provides enough light for fighting. However it is difficult to gauge an accurate number of the enemies, especially with the skeletons being black. There might also be additional ambushes in the forest where light doesn't reach.

My fighting spirit began to sag as I consider the possibility that this is just one portion of a larger ambush. Quickly I banished such negative thoughts and summoned my courage with a battle cry. I rush to join the affray!

As per the report it was an undead army of skeletons. I noticed the strength & durability of these Black Skeletons were unusually high, in additional many had abilities which made them even more difficult to kill. The levels of skeletal monster species can be estimated by

the [Soul Tools] on their body, our enemies with their whole body protected by armor, indicates they're all high level monsters. Why are there so many high level monsters in this one place?

But, even so I advanced. I must not back down. Because you can never stop on the battlefield. Fortunately, the moon is out tonight. Moonlight strengthens my blade [Moon Sword]. It was the ideal time for its maximum ability to be exhibited.

From the front, a Black Skeleton Knight advanced. It's wearing black iron gauntlets, holding a huge gold two-handed axe. It can deal enormous damage with its weight, combined with the monster's physical strength it's also swung at a high speed. Skeletons without muscle are a problem because they move with magic and are more powerful than they look....Fortunately, not so fast that I can't easily deal with them.

Faster, sharper, with direct movement and concentrating on the stabbing trajectory, I stepped forward. My murderous intent obvious in the blade.

【Therese E Eckermann used Battle Technique [Sanctuary Rose]】

【Magic sword - Moon Sword's Unique Ability activated】

A faint red light illuminated on my magic sword, absorbing additional magic from the moon to generate a whirlwind.

[-----!!]

The Black Skeleton with the two-handed axe was caught in Moon Sword's whirlwind trajectory, it caused it to miss my side with his swing and makes a slash mark in the ground. My own attack though was accurate, with my sword point lightly piercing the skeleton skull. Though I wanted to penetrate through the skull, like most Skeleton species it has resistance to piercing attacks. That said, this skeleton was already defeated. The red light that surrounded my blade penetrate into skeleton, next, patterns of red roses spread throughout the skeletal body.

All [Temple Knight]'s have a Battle Technique called [Sanctuary Rose] that generates patterns of red rose's with [Holy] attribute that are fatal for most undead species. Floating red rose pattern spread throughout the body and smoke begin to rise from the body of the Black Skeleton Knight as it loses its power. The [Holy] attribute breaks it's binding strength and the bones shatters. Trampling and kicking away its remains, while looking to take on the next skeleton coming to attack, I shouted.

[Behn, is the large area undead turning technique not ready yet?]

[Please wait a little bit, Commander]

[Careful Commander! Your back is full of openings]

[---, thank you, Levias]

[you say so, but your back is also defenseless!]

[Uwa, Hot! Too close, Waisury-san!]

[Wahaha, Sorry! But you should not be careless on the Battlefield]

From Lord Waisury masses of flame are released, three skeletons are burnt simultaneously. They continue to move, Levias had to crush them with his blade. Luckily once burnt, they became quite fragile.

We can fight while helping each other. But overall the situation was dire. The surrounding soldiers are respectively holding ground somehow. But I don't know for how long as the enemies are strong & relentless. I told myself we just need to hold on until Behn can successfully cast the large area undead turning. It will purify or weaken the skeletons in a 50m radius. This will turn the battle!

However, life is not so simple… Life is cruel….

[■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■!!]

[------!]

[Wh--!]

[Uoo]

[Kya!!]

In a battlefield that was chaotic with screams of friend and foe, this howl was heard over the sound of the whole battle! Who or what is capable of such a howl?!?

The ground shook, from the core of my body I was shaken. An intimidating howl that was close to what a dragon or a giant monster would use. It was a magnificent opening attack. While holding my ears reflexively, I look in the direction i hear the roar from.

And. There. It. Was.

A number of red tattoo's covered its whole body, riding on a Hind Bear that should have been the strongest monster in this forest. A Black Ogre with a silver left arm, surveying the battlefield with the air of a general!

A Black Ogre?! It wore leather pants and was bare-chested like the average Ogre. But unlike other Ogres I had fought in the past who depended on brute strength and simple weapons (clubs), in this Ogre's hand was a huge halberd. I can tell that this Ogre was very skillful from the way he's holding the halberd.

Since common Ogres generally have brown skin. This black Ogre must be a subspecies instead of a common Ogre. Furthermore the black skin strongly suggests some [Divine Protection] have been given by a great god like the [God of Origin and End]. Additional blessing from other gods might also be present judging from the depth of that color, perhaps the [God of Death] and [God of Netherworld]?

Clearly this is a formidable enemy. However, with his appearance I was finally able to understand where this army of Black Skeletons came from. They must be summoned by this Ogre. It might be too early to judge, yet my intuition tells me that this Ogre must be the cause.

Well, the objective is clear, concentrate on the Ogre. If you kill the summoner, the skeletons will be banished.

[Everyone concentrate on killing that Black Ogre! Behn, Quickly cast the undead turning! Then use your support Magic's on all members!]

[Understood Commander.]

[Lord Waisury with magic from the back! Levias with me! Others support! That is the opponent we must kill! Attack it at once!]

[Understood!]

Leading my subordinates, I rushed to the vanguard.

As I began running, skeleton's that stood in the way began to disappear or had their movements slowed. Behn finally managed to cast the large area undead turning! I crushed the skeletons that were weakened or barged them away as we approached to attack the Black Ogre. At the same time an unexpected voice was heard.

[Their problem solving ability is average, but their magic equipment is of high quality.]

The black Ogre was speaking human language fluently! Normally, even the intelligent Ogre mage could only manage to speak in simple short phrases. Yet this black Ogre was conversing like an average human!

Though genuinely startled, there is no stopping now. No, we cannot stop! We charged! The support magic from Behn starts to take affect at the same time. My sprint speed increased dramatically. My body felt light like a feather.

The Ogre looked shocked at seeing us quicken suddenly, this was an opportunity!

In order to adjust to the height of the black Ogre heart that rode on the Hind bear, I jumped, the impact as I took off crushed the ground underneath. This was no normal jump. At that speed my body looked like a shot arrow, my body flew. As the height of my trajectory was adjusted, I got into position and quickly aimed at the heart. In the same way as when the Black Skeleton Knight was slaughtered earlier, murderous intent is put in the blade, red light glowed-

【Therese E Eckermann uses Battle Technique [Sanctuary Rose]】

It's one of the strongest blows among the jobs that I have. Because it is an Ogre, [Holy] magic would not affect it like a Skeleton. Thus I chose the Battle Technique linked directly to spiritual damage, [Spirit of Light] attributes [Sanctuary Rose].

If the heart is pierced through with this, even if the Ogre has strong vitality, it will still be enough for a fatal wound. This I know from other Ogres I had slaughtered in the past. Even if it's a subspecies, it cannot be that different! I became a deadly flash hurdling through the air! This enemy cannot respond to my speed. Even if it's able to react, with my whirlwind ability I should be able to divert any potential mortal blow.

I was convinced it will work.

But the result was that my attack does not even reach him, as my body is suddenly hurled up into the sky. What happened? I lost my bearings as I struggle to process what had occurred.

[Commander!]

The impact of being caught by my subordinates knocked me back to reality. Going through in my mind at what just happened, while watching the smug attitude of the black Ogre, I understood. I was scooped up. He used the flat axe-head of the halberd like a shovel, at a

speed that I could not perceive, yet gentle enough that I did not feel pain, to launched me into the sky from below!

As I contemplate this turn of event I gasped, “Buwa”. A cold sweat broke out. I did not even see the halberd move. If the black Ogre was serious, I would have been killed with a single blow. Yet why am I still alive?

I realized the answer straight away.

[Alright! You, I will capture alive. You look like you will be useful in other ways.]

The black Ogre was appraising me. Keeping me alive as he felt like I was a waste to kill! He quickly made that decision even as I launched my first attack... That I posed no danger whatsoever! Certain as I was that this was the reason, my anger began welling up. I have my pride as a noble born daughter and a knight. But most importantly my pride as a warrior! I will not accept being dismissed so hastily!

[Get serious! You're just a mere Ogre, I will cut you down!]

[Heh! You show courage. You seem to be a fine woman!]

[My name Therese E Eckermann! Serving the Sternbild Kingdom's Princess as knight. I will show you my full power. If you can defeat me, I'm yours to command!]

[My name is Ogarou. Currently I’m serving as a mercenary team leader. Just one bit of advice - attack me with full power!]

[Of course. From now on words are unnecessary, we speak with our blades.]

[Aa, let’s do it!]

After the formal introduction. At lightning speed the halberd was swung at my head!

Fast! Just a simple, direct blow. It's velocity cannot be compared with the axe of the Black Skeleton Knight earlier. In addition splashes of water can be seen to jump slightly from the edge. Some form of magic must be crafted into the axe-head! Still, I tried to deflect the halberd with my blade's whirlwind without panicking; But at the same time I realized the whirlwind had dissipated!

Before considering the cause, I jumped sideway reflexively. Without the whirlwind, this is not a blow that can be blocked. There was not even time to consider other defensive maneuvers, I rolled on the ground in an awkward manner. My armor is stained by soil. A small price to pay for avoiding that blow.

[You have good reflexes. I want you even more now!]

[You! You have some strange powers don't you?]

[Really? What makes you say that?]

[Clearly you are abnormal!]

While the Black Ogre's attention was on me. Levias took the chance to ambush from behind with his magic scimitar -Flamecutter-, smoothly swinging to the black Ogre's blindside. The timing for the surprise attack was perfect. With this sneak attack enchanted with his [Job], he should be able to cut the black Ogre... Or so I thought.

The Ogre blocked the sneak attack with the handle of his halberd. He moved and defended without so much as looking at Levias!

Shocked, as Levias frantically tries to back away, his abdomen was stabbed with the butt end of the halberd. While the damage seems to have been mitigated by his cuirass. It is now pierced by tiny holes with blood flowing out. Clearly the butt end of that halberd is also enchanted. Levias is slowed by the blow. The Ogre's silver arm extends to grab him.

At this rate he will be caught. I spontaneously moved to intercept. Magic from the moon is absorbed and I launched yet another whirlwind. This time directed at the head of his Hind Bear, facing my way. If his steed is taken down, we might have a better chance.

My expectations were proved wrong, once again.

[Naive.]

At the top of my sword tip with the projected whirlwind trajectory, suddenly there was water ball. I pierced that orb in the mid-swing, the whirlwind that swirled around my blade was counterbalanced with a whirlpool of water ball that turns in the opposite direction. My gale technique was broken again!

[What the?...]

This is not magic. I did not feel magic being cast, but what is this water ball? Before I could think of an answer, the black Ogre has moved.

[Got a good aim, but...]

The Black Ogre gripped Levias's body with Silver arm, then looked at me with a piercing [Captivating Stare]! At that moment, fear corroded my heart. My body froze, I couldn't move at all! I could not avert from that gaze as he had my eyes locked.

'I will be killed!' I thought. That's the eyes of a predator contemplating food...

[Blue Flame Spears]!!

30 burning blue flame spears pass by my paralyzed side with high speed. All directed at the black Ogre that had me paralyzed.

Third level magic [Blue Flame Spears]! It must be our [High Wizard], Lord Waisury!

Just one blue flame spear had more than enough power to kill a mere Ogre. Even if it's more powerful than a normal Black Skeleton Soldier. Once hit the fire continues to burn until you're nothing but charcoal. Just being nearby, my body could feel the intense heatwave. Even if it's an Ogre subspecies, he cannot survive a third level spell!

But this spell was also easily broken. I could hear the small voice of the black Ogre as he muttered, [---Too slow!]

As each approaching flame spear flew towards the Ogre they're dissipated one by one. Each blazed fiercely, but are subsequently snuffed out. All 30 [Blue Flame Spears] disappeared in only 3 seconds, burning nothing at all, leaving the Ogre sitting on his Hind Bear unharmed.

I can only deduce that the Ogre somehow smashed each spear. But how?

Lord Waisury's angry voice come from behind.

[Lady Therese! Retreat! Quickly!]

'Ha!' I thought. As if it's that easy.

Did he used his silver arm to break the [Blue Flame Spears]...? It had let Levias go with the silver arm (who retreated further away to accepted treatment). The only one left close to the black Ogre was me. I panicked and retreated several steps.

Though it looked prepared for pursuit. Suddenly the black Ogre paused and spoke while staring into space.

[Hmm. That magician will be useful. That's right Ogakichi-kun! Capture the group in that direction!]

I was perplexed,

[What are you talking about?!?]

[Oh, I just had to confirm the target a bit!]

[What----?]

My voice was interrupted as several soldiers close to the black Ogre were suddenly dismembered. Blood erupted from their wounds as their organs and limbs are sent flying in all directions. Furthermore, the corpses were all scorched violently.

What had happened? There, appeared a second Ogre with red-copper colored skin! It had an even bigger body. In its hands was a huge double edged battle axe that matches it's physique and a huge black tower shield which covered three-quarters of his big frame. At first glance, it looked like a city wall. Finally it too is flanked by a Hind Bear, even if it's not another black Ogre it still felt dangerous.

[Ogarou! Me kill and eat all?]

[Well, you can if they are average.]

[Understand. Strong ones catch! Others eat?]

[Ah, That's good. Go quickly!]

The red-copper Ogre nodded then together with his Hind Bear, they ran off to my fighting soldier's place. They're fast, 30 meters was instantly traversed. The battle axe was swung horizontally like he was mowing weeds as the bodies of the several soldier are cut apart. Leaving only charred corpses in his wake.

That must be a magic battle axe. In fact it must be a considerably high ranked magic item. I have no time to consider how an Ogre could gain such an item as I returned my attention to the black Ogre.

Though the red copper Ogre is not something you should take your eyes off, the black Ogre is much more dangerous.

As I slowly measured our distances, A voice came to my ear. It's unique sound can only mean it's being delivered via magic.

『Lady Therese please buy me a little time, with my trump card, I will kill the black Ogre!』

[Acknowledged, how much time you need?]

『I know it's unreasonable, but I will need 2 minutes. If possible, pin down that Silver arm. Or better yet, cut it off altogether.』

[It will be tough, but I'll try!]

『Please do so.』

Lord Waisury's voice disappears, chanting was heard from behind. At the same time, I felt the rising magic power. It is manipulated at an extraordinary speed. It swells up steadily, as each component of the complicated spell is completed. Perhaps this is one grade above from before: It must be magic in the fourth level. Magic of this destruction level can crush city walls!

In response for that, the black Ogre descended from his Hind Bear to walk towards us. His eyes were concentrated at the direction of Lord Waisury. Does it intend to interrupt the casting?

We must stop it!

[Use all our powers to protect Lord Waisury from the Ogre! Levias attack from the left! You from right and you from behind! I will take the front. Attack the black Ogre together. Behn use all your Support and Obstruction Magic (Buff's and De-buff's)!]

[Understood, body magic [Odo] on! I'll do my best until the end]

[That son of a bitch! I'll absolutely cut it down!]

[That's the spirit!]

Aligning the timing, we launch our attacks simultaneously. If possible, to kill the black Ogre. Or at the very least, protect Lord Waisury, to buy him time.

■

From the requested two minutes. Only one minute had passed. But our troops had already paid a heavy price.

One soldier had his entrails cut out, It was bisected with vertical water edge generated from the axe head of the halberd. Another had his body penetrated by the silver arm as his head was bitten off. A third skewered by the Ogre horn, sat collapsed together with another dead companion. One soldier was burnt to a crisp from flames that were suddenly generated from the halberd's pick. Lightning bolts generated from the halberd's spearhead burnt another poor soldier's entrails...

Our attempts to defeat black Ogre simply left a trail of corpses. I have not even included soldiers who are alive, but sustained heavy injuries, to defeat this black Ogre enormous damage was received by all. The only remaining resistance for the black Ogre, was me alone.

Levias with his broken magic scimitar fell in to the ground. Behn had overused his support magic [Odo] and collapsed from “mana exhaustion”. Other soldiers also groaned and succumbed to the earth.

Yet the black Ogre still stood there uninjured. Not a single scratch! All our attacks, evaded, blocked or absorbed with skills or mysterious techniques.

[Your plan of attack was effective. From all directions, throwing all that you had at me, simultaneously. It was quite difficult to handle, you have bought a little time, but it ends here!]

Black Ogre comments matter-of-factly.

Strangely his voice held no ridicule, but only praise.

[You bastard, why are you so strong?]

I am not uninjured either. Countless minor cuts throughout my body, in my dominant right arm I suffered a deep laceration and a small knife was stuck in my thigh. The black Ogre had seemingly pulled it out of nowhere to throw it at me. It was so sudden I could not prevent it. Since Behn's priest group had already collapsed, I cannot expect fast magic healing from others. If there was spare energy I could remove the knife and heal it myself... Not that the black Ogre would let me rest and perform treatment.

It would not be an understatement to say that my troops have been completely destroyed. I can hear my wounded troop's screams as they're being killed...though they might be the lucky ones as the 'monster's banquet' is about to begin. The remains of our encampment is now filled with the scent of blood and screams of the wounded. Even without the Black Ogre, my other soldiers were easily being overwhelmed.

[Why are you so strong?]

Laughing uncontrollably to maybe preserve my mind, I screamed at the black Ogre.

[No, you are just weak. You relied on flashy skills, body enhancing [Job] levels and sissy Battle Techniques. You and your troops lacked real training.]

[Our training is insufficient? Everyday we trained! We covered our bodies with blood and sweat and you're saying that was for nothing?!!]

[Aye! It was useless and in vain. You have all been wasting time! Your soldiers fight hoping you're strong enough to kill me, while you're fighting to buy time for the mage to save you! How can someone truly become strong if they fight while relying on other, stronger people?]

After the black Ogre's speech, I stopped laughing and rage overcame me!

His contempt for all my hard work. For all the effort of my comrades. For the teachers who nurtured me. I felt like i was losing my mind.

Power and energy that was waning began to return, fueled by anger.

[Shut your mouth!!]

I pulled out the knife in my thigh. Ignoring the pain!

Blood pumping out. Ignore the pain!

I run. Ignoring the pain!

The damaged thigh muscle as its yanked and torn off. Ignore the pain!

Fractured bone in the thigh further damaged as I labored. Ignore the pain!

Ignoring the pain, I run. Even if my leg is ruined, I must run!

In my hand my Moon Sword's silver steel blade filled with burning murderous intent. My body protests in intense pain.

Red light surrounds the blade while white light filled my body.

【Therese E Eckermann uses Battle Technique [Sanctuary Rose]】

【Therese E Eckermann uses Battle Technique [Wind Raid]】

【Magic sword - Moon Sword - Unique Ability activated】

My strongest blow. Raising the dash speed rapidly, adding physical strength enhancement Battle Technique [Wind Raid].

Even if my wounded thigh slowed me somewhat, this trick gave me speed like the wind!

From my high speed enhancement, time seems to slow down. I can see the black Ogre prepare the halberd. Meeting his eyes again, my flames of hatred intensifies.

Kill! That was my only thought! I flew, the last 10 meter traversed within a fraction of a second....

Strike with my [Moon Sword]!

Facing me head on, the black Ogre carelessly throws away his halberd!

My body came to a halt when the impact stopped my momentum.

I hit it! Even if it was a small wound. My sword point is stuck into its chest!

Blood flowed. Red blood same as us. That's, that's, that's.....

My attack, the fastest single blow, finally got through. Even if it's not a mortal wound I can still feel relief.

[With this, I take back some of the things I said. You at least managed to wound me!]

Having consumed so much energy I was close to collapsing. I could only look at the black Ogre's face, and he was smiling.

It was off course still frightening; I have seen him eat a person just a moment ago. But at the same time I can see kindness in his smile.

『Lady Therese, please back away!』

In the space between me and the black Ogre, I heard Lord Waisury's voice. Seems I delivered the promised 2 minutes! I had forgotten about it in my rage. Without turning, I can feel magic of extraordinarily destructive force flying towards us. Lord Waisury is holding it off until I back away, to protect me from its power.

If only that was possible. I know that even a [High Mage] like Lord Waisury cannot hold it forever. But I have no more energy to escape. Maybe I will die if I'm caught in the attack. No, no maybe about it, I'll be dead for sure. But I feel fine about it. I accept it with neither repentance nor regret, only satisfaction.

How strange, my subordinates are almost all dead and I'm about to be killed, yet I feel satisfaction.

Black Ogre with it’s silver arm gripping Moon Sword, looked at me wordlessly.

I spoke,

[Hey! You see it, monster? This wound is my last gift to you]

[Aa, I see it. I gladly took it. I find you fascinating. I won't let you die!]

Before I could protest his arm turned my waist. Before I could process what he had said he moved like a dancer. Though he was huge with incredible strength he was graceful.

The powerful magic that before approached from behind me now has a clear target at the black Ogre's back.

Finally I saw the magic that Lord Waisury has produced, looming over the Ogre's body...

It was a white flame dragon with an elongated body like a snake.

One grade above from even my expectation, this was fifth level magic [Dragon of White Flame]. This is indeed a trump card!

Fifth Grade sorcery [Dragon of White Flame] was a result of combining high level fire and earth magic. If I'm not mistaken, it has a special characteristic, that within a certain period of time, the person who invoked it can direct the spell at will. I saw it with my father on a battlefield once, and I will never forget the scene when thousands of enemy soldiers were mowed down in a few seconds.

That's the power coming towards us. My death will be spectacular! Not so bad I thought. It would be an honor to die from this spell.

[What's that resigned expression? Do you think you will die?]

[Eh?]

[As I told you; I won't let you die. Sorry, but that was your promise. The moment I won our fight, your life becomes mine.]

After that the Ogre turned around to face the dragon.

I sat resigned to the inevitable outcome.

The [Dragon of White Flame] doesn't stop. Lord Waisury also, having judged it impossible to save me, begins to direct it. The dragon attacks at the max speed. I also think it's the right decision. Any more hesitation from him, and I would feel insulted by Lord Waisury.

Even the black Ogre won't be safe from the [Dragon of White Flame]'s jaw. Fangs of a white flame are seen as it opens its mouth, the flesh and blood of this black Ogre will be evaporated in an instant and I will join him in the end.

Even if its a subspecies, it's just an Ogre. Facing destruction without peer.

Yet again. This black Ogre far surpassed my imagination.

I do not fully understand what happened next.

One moment the white flame dragon is approaching from black Ogre's back. The next moment it is destroyed by one black Ogre attack. The scene's absolutely impossible for me to express with mere words.

Something happened as the Ogre's back made contact with the body of the [Dragon of White Flame]. As it's suddenly collapsed and dissipates.

The only 3 people left to witness it was me, Levias and Lord Waisury as he staggered with “mana exhaustion”.

I fainted after that, I do not remember properly what happened afterwards.

I can only say one thing for sure: The black Ogre had without a doubt won.

■

Sometime after I asked Ogarou what was the technique he used to slaughter the [Dragon of White Flame]. It was *a* combination attack mixed with his void magic, water and air magic. He called it [Shock Back]. A combination of several offensive abilities.

When explaining in detail, first he created a membrane of water using [Hydro Hand], stretched around his body. Using [Aero-Master] he created a vacuum within the water membrane protecting his body.

Then on top of that double defense membrane he used his silver arm's ability [Self Evolution] to strengthen his natural void magic system to the third grade magic: [Destroy all with Darkness] which summons three pyramid-shaped shields.

These three shields might look like they are for defense, but at the same time they had the attribute of his [Spear of the End] spell.

So with Ogarou's three End-shields and his self-made [Shock Back] skill extruded at high speed; It was enough to crushed the [White Flame Dragon] from the front.

What a complete monster. In fact he's a monster among monsters. A freak of nature that doesn't follow any logic.

After all that's said and done; as promised, I yielded this body of mine to Ogarou. My vow as a knight doesn't allow me to break this promise. At least, my chivalry remains.

I now devote myself to Ogarou till my life ends...

...Well after the first night anyway. I was upset and stabbed him in the heart since I had not expected our first night together to be so violent. I knew he would be okay as a wound with that knife would not be an issue. Now life with Ogarou is not so bad.

Ogarou I found, as I spend more time with him, is a surprisingly good man.

Day 68 Sidestory: Ogakichi's POV

Ogarou hit a bunch of enemies, because I said so.

This time it became mobility-oriented, only sitting on the possesed Beast in order to go to the battlefield, his own our number of but seventy degree and small, will good in this because of that Ogarou is good in this.

The reason it is not that deeply considered.

Himself is not suitable to thinking too much.

So I run if Ogarou says. That's it.

After a while, I found the enemy.

But some magic is stretched around, I don't know what it is. This thing I've never seen before.

But Ogarou break, than that, I headed to the indicated position.

Once you have as you say Ogarou, no little mistake.

Reported ready to Ogarou through the communication ear cuff.

After waiting for a while, Ogarou started the fight by throwing a black spear.

Things like crispy and magic is destroyed in black spear, and to it was made the soil walls surrounding us Jiang enemy that good is himself a little late.

This is because you do not escape their prey.

When can the height of the soil wall in excess of his own stature, here magic is going to be bombarded in the camp.

Magic is conspicuously strongly of space star among them, and violently, and dazzling.

But above those of black spear of threat level if Ogarou, but magic of space stars are an attack range anyway vast, I will be bombarded continuously.

When is a while blurring, eventually magic of shelling weakened, came instructed the Tsukkome from Ogarou. -Depth.

I rammed in without hesitation.

I run with the Kumakichi.

I find the enemy.

I kill and hit with axe.

Shield is bent, the meat was cut torn.

I find the enemy.

I crush on shield.

Viscera momentum jump out well from the mouth.

I find the enemy.

I be Kurawa head butted.

Corner sticks to the meat, face was wet with blood of the enemy.

I find the enemy.

I Hikikorosu leave of momentum.

Voice of agony beneath my feet, feel the breaking of a bone.

I find the enemy.

Kill baked wearing a flame.

Screaming, I show a strange dance.

I find the enemy.

Kill eating and biting the head.

Decent and delicious.

Taste of the brain.

Almost did not think anything is when you fight.

Technique that was used in training with Ogarou, came out with nature.

Body moves before you think.

The move without some degree thought, fought while thinking the formidable opponent.

Training of Ogarou to be played in the brain.

So rife was advice, storage chopped along with the pain.

If fight while remembering it, etc.,

the enemy has kill To crispy even stronger than the other.

It is interesting, I think.

Just training if training, I feel that you are close to Ogarou to.

Though still far, but still has to feel like is approaching. Yourself is, you want close to Ogarou.

Before you is longing, as friend, and want to be together. So himself was killed the enemy.

In order to become stronger, and decided to kill many.

Yourself to become stronger require more experience, it is necessary to fight experience, besides many necessary.

So shake the axe in the innocent, it is possible to prevent in the shield, mashed stepping.

Even so, meat eating in the battlefield, was delicious.

Day 69

While I was sleeping, I felt a slight pain in my chest.

When I woke up,it seemed that my heart had been pierced by someone. The culprit was the one who hadn't been cuffed yet; the aforementioned Female Knight-san, who was clothed only in her birthday suit, was already wet in many places.

Even though she was really upset yesterday, I thought that she would eventually regain her composure. Fortunately, the stray wrought iron knife (Blacksmith-san's work) that she used on me was one only meant for chopping food.

While leisurely thinking about that, I pulled out the knife embedded in my chest. You should not underestimate the survival power of an Ogre. I won't die from a shallow wound to the heart made by a simple wrought iron knife. It only hurts a bit, only stopping my movement when as I heal my wound.

But, as I dislike pain, I used 【Rapid Recovery】. The wound closed immediately.

As I looked up, I saw Dhammi-chan stark-naked. She was holding Female Knight-san down while grabbing a bunch of her hair with a quiet, simmering anger. Unable to fight back against the inhuman physical strength, Female Knight-san looked up at me with a hateful look.

Hmm, it looked like it wasn't enough yet. Therefore, I injected a drug into her that I created and punished her together with Dhammi-chan.

TL note: punish = sexual innuendo

I know I'm exaggerating, but in the afternoon I personally cuffed Female Knight-san!

TL note: emphasis on personally in this sentence

We gathered the male slaves and made them spit out all of the information they had. As a result of [Enslave], they could not lie or withhold information from us. We'll pass all of it on to Father Elf.

Because our feat seriously affected the Elven morale, yesterday we received 10 barrels of Elven Wine from Father Elf-san in exchange for the information. It was a good deal.

Also, as of today there are four more Hobgoblins today. Mixed within them, was a Cleric.

As usual, I will give them a celebratory gift.

Day 70

Today we set up various traps on the human army's invasion route to ambush them.

The human army was planning to take advantage of their greater numbers to attack the Elven army from multiple directions. That's why we are lying in wait on separate routes to defeat them one by one.

Because this is one of the many routes that are currently being watched, it seems likely that one of the units of the main force will pass by here. While I think I'd be able to gain a lot of experience points from this fight, I devoted myself to dividing the hunting ground together with Asue-chan.

The road that looked like a game trail was slightly lower than its surroundings, and we altered the terrain to make a little slope.

We set pitfall traps at the base of the trees, which grew thick on each side. Then we dug a trench to hide at the base of a certain tree that was a little farther from the road. To make it safer, we installed a shield made out of wooden boards and placed fauna near the trench to make it inconspicuous. Blacksmith-san worked hard to make enough repeating crossbows to equip the long distance attack troops, Tirard, who were stationed inside the trenches.

We also placed Red Surge, the light infantry, inside the trench as an insurance measure. So, even if they jumped over the pitfalls and got close by slipping their way through the rain of arrows, it would be easy to buy ourselves some time... or just kill them.

However, they ought to have been dealt with by our Kobolds that were hiding in the pitfalls before that.

Soon after we finished the general preparations, the scouts from my squad reported that it would take our enemy approximately 30 minutes to arrive here with their current marching speed. So, all we could do was hold our breath and wait.

Then, they arrived.

Rusty Iron Knight, who was equipped in a rust-iron colored full-body armor, advanced astride his war-horse. He paid close attention to his surroundings as he led an orderly army that did not break ranks while it marched behind him. Certainly, each of them seemed to have relatively strong, I'd guess there were about 700 of them.

Amongst them were magic users—'magicians' is a general term to represent them, describing those whose job involves using magic. There were Summoners, Arcana, Sorcerers and more—probably about 100 of them.

Adding in the power of magic, even with only 700 of them, they had tremendous fighting potential. But it didn't bother me, it made me feel they were a delicious opponent.

TL note: yes, Rou means 'delicious'.

Coordinating the troops through the cuffs, first we fell a huge tree and cut off the enemy's path for retreat. It made a loud noise, but it didn't crush anyone. However, it diverted the attention of our enemy and gave me the opportunity to shout out the next command.

With their retreat cut off, it was time for our first assault. We pushed multiple boulders down from the hill right on top of enemy. The recessed area that was the enemies' foothold, caved in on both sides and became a disaster for those who didn't get away in time. They were either crushed by the falling boulders or trampled to death by their comrades who desperately tried to get away.

There were those that took up their weapons and others with magic to tried to destroy the boulders. Unfortunately for them, I placed an enchantment on the rocks so that they wouldn't break easily and they maintained their momentum. Their resistance was in vain and they fell prey to the boulders.

Of the original 700 enemies, more than 200-300 were crushed to death or were unable to fight. Many others had suffered injuries as well. It would be difficult for them to immediately re-organize themselves.

Of course I had no intention of giving our enemy a break, so we started the barrage with our repeating crossbows. Moreover, because I smeared the bolts with a poison I made, even the slightest touch was deadly. The attack instantly cut down the number of enemies.

In an attempt to fight back, some of them tried storming the trenches but ended up falling in the hidden pitfalls. They were met with a wretched end as they got beaten to death by the hidden Kobolds.

This alone was not enough to kill them all though. The commanding power of the Rusty Iron Knight was not something to be taken lightly.

He gathered the survivors together and arranged a formation using the bodies of their dead comrades to shield themselves from the poisoned arrows. We tried to bring them down with the boulders, but those were destroyed by rapid blasts of magic that were shot from between the crevices in the shell-like formation. With the poisoned arrows being blocked by their shield of dead bodies, we could no longer decrease their numbers this way.

We were in a short stalemate. Just as I was thinking how well he was doing with barely 100 soldiers left, I got interested in the Rusty Iron Knight.

I wanted him as my pawn, so I stopped our attack by magic for now and had the heavy armed corps Revolution, led by Ogakichi-kun, charge at them from the top of the hill.

To prevent shooting our own by mistake, we had to stop firing the poisoned arrows. So, I just watched over Ogakichi-kun and his men as he readied his ‘Tower Shield’ and they advanced forward.

Magic attacks were sent out from the enemy line at Ogakichi-kun, but all of them were blocked by the magic item ‘Tower Shield’ and were dispersed. Our enemy judged that it

was useless to aim for Ogakichi-kun and started targeting the others. However, most of them were protected by the Tower Shield.

As both armies closed in on each other, the enemies desperately jumped out from the enclosure as a last resort, but they were not able to break through the defense of the heavy armor unit, and were instead being systematically slaughtered by the members of the heavy armor unit.

Though the Rusty Iron Knight tried to fight back against Ogakichi-kun, there was no real contest as Ogakichi-kun had improved his skills in the fight against the Black Skeletons. The reason why he was ‘struggling’ against him, was because he wasn't being serious since I ordered him to bring Rusty Iron Knight back alive.

After 30 minutes when Ogakichi-kun had enjoyed the fight to its fullest, Rusty Iron Knight was knocked out, captured, and enslaved.

And so the meat was distributed and was munched, *crunch crunch*.

Ability learned: 【Job - Sorcerer】
Ability learned: 【Job - Shielder】
Ability learned: 【Job - Sentinel】
Ability learned: 【Shield Bash】
Ability learned: 【Combat Technique Aptitude】
Ability learned: 【Sword Proficiency】
Ability learned: 【Guard Proficiency】
Ability learned: 【Job - Archer】
Ability learned: 【Job - Hunter】
Ability learned: 【Job - Item Creator】
Ability learned: 【Shield Wall】
Ability learned: 【Greater Tool Appraisal】

Our military achievements this time were quite outstanding.

After we collected all the useful-looking equipment, we transported the spoils of war, useful-looking prisoners, and food just like last time. We drugged the captured women and put them in jail while the men were put to work as slaves immediately.

After that, I reported to Father Elf-san.

If they can't restrain themselves anymore and sought after the captured women, I'll give them out as a reward to the individuals that fought well.

When Father Elf-san asked what I was going to do to the prisoners, I told him what I would normally do. Father Elf-san said "not to force them against their will", but to have your way without drugging them, what is he talking about?

They are enemies, we should at least be allowed to drug them.

Now, shall I go have a talk with Rusty Iron Knight? Just as I was thinking of doing that, Dhammi-chan embarrassingly tugged on the hem of my bottom with flushed cheeks.

Huh? She wants a… child? I got fired up in various ways.

Day 70 Sidestory: A Kobold's POV

By the instructions of our Lord, I and several other compatriots (other Kobolds) entered a hollow pitfall to hide inside.

A short spear in one hand and in the other a dagger which had on its corner poison made by our lord. Our role, is to wait in front of our main force, on the passing enemy forces and ambush them after the rain of poison arrows stop, and when they fall into the pitfalls to stab them immediately.

Although it became an important assignment, it still was not a rather safe assignment.

On the ground (the main force), they used a weapon that the lord devised called “Repeating Crossbow”, which strikes and kills enemy units, and with this there is little care that the enemy will counterattack as they are shot dead.

Even if an enemy has not fallen from above, we still injure them from below.

And saying that, there is still the possibility that in the end it still won’t work.

In addition I… no, all of the Kobolds in the pitfalls were grinding our teeth. As the duty in such an unsafe place was left to us, showed the trust that our lord had in us.

However it is a reluctant thing. As we swore our loyalty to him.

But we diligently continued our duty, as our loyalty is deep, and I made more effort in order to earn the lords trust.

I put it to my heart, as I held my breath and waited for the enemy.

Before long, the enemy came according to the schedule.

Lord's strategy – cutting of the way to retreat, by rolling down rocks and shooting poisoned arrows – to confuse the enemy and to decrease their numbers. I began to hear screams.

The number of people that fell into the traps has increased after a while, and I heard the screams of excitement from my compatriots (other Kobolds).

As I was lying hidden in the pitfall waiting for the enemy to fall in, the time has finally come.

As they fall in the pitfall I struck them by surprise, and as their feet where injured because of the fall they could not possible react.

A dull sound of a crack was heard as bones were breaking, and the enemy was too confused by the pain and sudden change of scenery.

I stabbed them with the corner of my short spear from the back. However the thick, full body armor prevented it, and as the corner of the short spear cut in it was not a fatal injury. I heard an unpleasant sound, as sparks were scattered.

The first shot failed.

Although I did fret it, that they had on an armor from head to toe, but the enemy was moving slow as their foot was wounded, and there was no counterattack because of their confusion.

I fortunately was able to cling to their back, and I somehow succeeded to stab them in between the gap of their armor with my poison dagger.

Feeling the meat being cut and torn. Blood gushing. The smell of thick blood.

And the reaction of reaping one's life, was enjoyable along with the enormous amount of experience gained. On the occasion of killing a higher rank, the large amount of experience gained it is said that it becomes a situation that is similar to intoxication. While exalted, I returned back to the hollow.

Because, this was an order from the Lord. The reason, to which I understood immediately. As it was not a difficult order. Simply, because the enemy falls from the top.

Because they were equipped with full body armor, and if I stayed in the center of the pitfall I would be crushed to death before realizing it. Indeed, as one would expect from our Lord. While thinking that, I cut the enemies body 3 times and tore it.

And as the battle is victorious, a large amount of prisoners of war are obtained. As a compensation from the Lord, I was given the corpse of the enemy that I killed. I trembled in delight because of the words of appreciation, and shed tears, as I stuffed my mouth with the meat.

Day 71

Today, 8 Goblins ranked up into Hobgoblins. 3 became Mages, 1 became a Cleric, and for the first time a Shaman Hobgoblin was born; the other three became regular Hobgoblins.

I was honestly happy at the significant increase in the numbers of our mage-type individuals due to the ambush the other day; the increase in Shamans that could lengthen the lifespan of undead types during the day was an extremely convenient/useful thing as well.

In addition to that, today three Kobolds ranked up to Ashigaru Kobolds.

TL Note: yappari, ashigaru kobold (foot soldier/footmen kobold) is a ranked-up kobold species.

Editor Note: they will be referred to as "Kobold Footmen" from now on.

When they rank up to Footmen, Kobolds are furnished with a weapon called "Organic Spear"—organic weapons are made from the cells of the original body, so it seems that as the original body grows, the weapons grow with them—, the ones who became Footmen who reported to me this morning were holding their spears.

Even though the 3 of them should be holding spears for the very first time in their lives, the bio-spears that came from their own bodies can be said to be an extension of their bodies, their spear handling were quite something. However, because it can't be said that it's perfect, the three Footmen Kobolds planned to focus on training the handling of the spear together with the Kobold Leader, who was the first to rank up into a Footmen.

Even so, many ranked up because of the amount of experience points we gathered in our fight against the human army. It really helped that the number of slaves that joined our manpower/labor force and our fighting force increased.

It seems we are about to clear our first goal. Because we got our hands on some females of our enemy that we can use to breed, we should try to increase our numbers. But if our group becomes too large, the amount of food we need and other difficulties will increase too, so we will have to coordinate the increase.

TLnote: 'breed' was originally TL-ed as 'bread'... makes the next sentence so much better

We have yet to find out how long it will take for a child to be born that surpasses the rank of Hobgoblin. As expected, even Gobujii doesn't know the answer. But it seems that when a human female is pregnant with a Goblin child it takes about 20 days and if a Goblin is pregnant it takes about 25 days. Then, if a human is pregnant with a Hobgoblin child it takes about 40 days, when a Hobgoblin is pregnant it takes about 50 days.

Although the birthing periods varies, I can't hide my surprise about the speed. Now I understand why humans hunt down Goblins regularly.

Just in case, I check if anyone of them has attained a subspecies that matches one of the magic items they've used. However, apart from I, Ogakichi-kun and Dhammi-chan, no one else has gained a subspecies, as expected the others don't meet the requirements to obtain a [Divine Protection].

I'll deal with this problem later.

After today's morning training, I questioned Rusty Iron Knight and the others that looked like commanding officers about the human army's purpose, whom I put [slave] collars on and threw into prison. I did this so as to gain information from multiple sources, to supplement what I obtained from Female Knight and the others.

As a result, I understood the general idea behind this war.

What sparked this war, was the 'Sternbild Kingdom'—because other countries haven't been mentioned yet, I'll call it 'Kingdom' for now until others appear—it started when their princess caught a terrible disease.

After infection, your internal organs would slowly rot away as the days passed by. More than 99% of the people who caught the disease would die within one year. There were a few cases where the patient survived for about 2 years, but as they also eventually died without being cured, there seem to be no survivors as of now.

Luckily, the disease can't spread by air or water vapor. The fact that there are not many cases seems to be the only salvation. However, the lack of cases also means there were few chances to find a cure.

Naturally, the Kingdom was determined try anything to heal the princess.

She was ill, but still renowned as "Masako", she was even engaged to be married --It was a marriage for political reasons, but as the two appeared to love each other, it may as well be a love marriage--, so she needed to be cured all the more.

By the king's command, all doctors and the medical experts in the Kingdom were frantically searching for a remedy.

TL Note: Masako = Clever/Wise Princess>

However, the results were not very rewarding.

Although they found a way to slow down the advance of the illness a little, almost half of each of the princess' internal organs had already rotted away.

At the time they tried to forcefully put her to sleep, in order to release her from the constant pain that could drive her crazy, while using magic to regenerate the rotten inner organs to prolong her life.

But as the organs were decaying faster than they could be regenerated, they could not cure her.

For a long time they thought she would die without anyone ever finding a cure.

However, a former citizen of the Kingdom; a certain woman, received a [Divine Relevation] from the [Demigod of Healing]. She had once worked for the one who held the [Job - Female Saint], who prayed everyday.

“To cure the "Chrysindo Disease", you need the secret medicine of the elves that live under the protection of the 【Demigod of Deep Green】.”

TL Note: Demigod of Deep Green could also be tled as ‘Demigod of Green Depths’, ‘Jade Demigod’, ‘Demigod of Beautiful Greenery’, etc.>

According to this【Divine Revelation】, the forests that we were born in fit the conditions, they had to buy the secret medicine of the elves that lived in the "Kuuderun Great Forest". The young emperor-to-be (who was 24 years old) of the "Kilika Empire" —which will be called the 'Empire', for the same reason as the 'Kingdom'— to whom the princess was betrothed to, negotiated with the elves.

But the elves didn't have much of the secret medicine left, and because of some ancient law --the elves have many annoying and troublesome laws-- they refused to give any of it to the "humans". He tried to negotiate over and over, but it was all in vain.

The elves have always been a prideful race and looked down on humans. I personally think they would not have given it, even if that law didn't exist.

Anyway, as a fact, they would not give the secret medicine to the Kingdom or the Empire.

There was no doubt about it, the failed negotiations were the cause of the war.

But, listening to this story, there seems to be more humane circumstances that are involved.

Well, I could keep going on about the little details, but it would be too troublesome and just lead to this conclusion:

"Humans are Greedy". It think that says enough.

But if I was to give four reasons why elves are better, it would be these:

One, practically all elves are beautiful. They make ideal sex slaves.

Two, elves are superior, as a race, to humans. They have excellent defense, as well as battle prowess.

Three, their mithril; the forest, packed with raw materials and magic items, is extremely delicious from an economical point of view.

Four, compared to other countries, they live in a place that's much more convenient in times of war. It makes an excellent defensive point.

Listening to the story, I thought those were awfully practical reasons.

The original trigger was certainly the refusal to sell the secret medicine to cure the princess, but combined with the human's great greed and expectations, the original goal was twisted which, in the end, resulted in the current war.

I cannot help but think that humans, as a race, would be a nuisance even in a parallel world.

Because I am in a good position this time to just disappear if need be, it doesn't bother me that much. I also asked many other things. I was especially careful to ask about the formation of the Human Army; because, I may not be able to defeat my enemy this time, in my current condition.

Because the Rusty Iron Knight belongs to the Empire, he didn't know much about the Kingdom's army—the Kingdom and Empire appear to have an Allied Force—, but the Female Knight who belongs to the Kingdom told me all about that, so it's not an issue.

As expected, the huge Empire has a good amount of soldiers which are also superior in quality. The army had ogres, a dragon-man species called Drago-Newts, and the demon troops from the “Allied Magical Beast Chimeras”, which was made by cross-breeding various monsters. It seems to be very strong.

Note: dragon-man is tentative, it could also be weredragon>

Most of the squad members appear to be slaves. It seems they are forced to fight with their lives on the line by their master. A troublesome and difficult story.

But as troublesome as it is, it will be easy to bring them down if you do it right. Anyway, we picked up the human in charge of commanding the slaves.

After I got the information I wanted, I had the male prisoners join the Goblins and play a game to improve their commanding power.

It was an actual warfare strategy game where the players with the title of captain had to keep their pawns, that were equally distributed amongst them, under their thumb and crush the pawns of the opponent by giving orders to their own. The pawns were equipped with wooden swords and shields, a bow, an axe, a spear or with just a shield by itself. The point was to give commands that suited the equipment of the grunts.

Because I acted as umpire, I didn't join the game myself. Dhammi-chan and Supesei-san are both great commanders, so they won a lot. On the other hand, Ogakichi-kun and Burasato-san are good at taking the lead and opening up the front line, but they were too weak. Asue-chan is somewhere in between. This is the difference between brain and muscles. It's not hard to understand.

Because we took a lot of provisions from the human army, we didn't go hunting today, we only did combat training in a cave. No, it wasn't really training, it was more like playing a game with everyone instead. Through training, we started to become friends to no small extent, so I wanted to strengthen that feeling.

At first, the humans who were taken as slaves couldn't hide their surprise about our training; but, it was funny to see how their expressions gradually became serious as time went by.

Because the human army barely moved today, we could focus on practicing. This is a good thing.

And later that night, the female humans happily joined the merriness.

Perhaps because they had greater lust than the elves, or because they simply fell quickly, they adapted quickly.

Only the Blacksmith-san and the others had expressions that showed their mixed feelings; however, compared to when they had just arrived, their ways of thinking changed quite a lot, so they didn't seem to have any real complaints.

Or rather, because it is war, this kind of thing can not be helped.

Besides, it is not like the situation will go haywire whenever it is pushed to the limit; because, it's something you're free to look for. Well, I suppose it’s that; everyone has different things that make them happy.

They were smart, nice women.

They were almost too good for me.

After that, because I noticed some elves here and there who looked at the human females with envy– the human females were in charge of sexual relief right now, so the elves didn’t force it–I tried to hook them up with some of our new Footmen Kobolds and Hobgoblins.

They seemed pretty happy.

Once you snap an elf's pride, it's easy to get them to obey. Well, even so I don’t intend to hit on them myself.

I am pretty satisfied with the current situation; there's no need to create enemies for no reason.

Day 72

While training together with Ogakichi-kun in the morning as usual, Rusty Iron Knight, who was set to fight against the Black Skeleton Knights——even though he wasn't wearing his iron-colored armor——requested a bout with me.

Just like the other humans, his pride was smashed to smithereens and he was in denial——as a lower nobility of the Empire, he seemed to think that goblins and ogres were on the same level as livestock. And yet, he was being treated like a slave by livestock; it seems to be breaking him.——yet, he was not hitting his head against the wall to kill himself, and silently did the training I imposed on him, even after becoming a slave> I liked that he looked at me straight in the eye, so I decided to agree to the bout.

And so, I felt that Rusty Iron Knight was indeed strong.

If it was just about combat techniques, I was definitely superior; but of all the humans I had fought until now, he possessed the most skill. In addition to this, he seemed to win in basic physical abilities.

Although I wasn't using any abilities, surpassing an ogre 【Rare Species】in physical strength is frightening.

The adventurer, whom I killed in Velvet's labyrinth some time ago, was about this strong as well; I had been wanting to fight someone of that level.

While fighting, I asked about his abilities. It seems that Rusty Iron Knight held four combat jobs: level 100+ 【Job-Warrior】, level 100+ 【Job-Knight】, level 62 【Job-Monk】and level 25 【Job-Templar】. These skills seemed to be the result of all his training thus far.

Rusty Iron Knight's fists were fast and heavy, his body flexible, yet hard; and, without any waste in his movements, he aimed for my vitals.

As well as freely throwing all sorts of skills at me with flashes of pale light——techniques that can only be used by those weak humans, also called Combat Arts in this world——, he was a difficult enemy.

But, he was still not as strong as the wild, naked, Red Bear that attacked me.

In the end, I won. Because the various kinds of Combat Arts rapidly fired at me were nothing more than abilities that gave various effects , they were relatively easy to counter.

TL Note: 'gave various effects' means things like dots/debuff/status effects (think game terminology)

But since it was such a close win, similar to when I had fought Ogakichi-kun, it was offensive to let the opponent think that he might have won depending if he had just fought differently. That's why I'll confront him and use my abilities this time.

But for that to happen, preparations are needed.

Using 【Job-Enchanter】, I strengthened Rusty Iron Knight's physical defense, recuperative power and defense strengthening, as he was only wearing hempen short pants.

TL Note: hemp = a material used for clothing, created from the fibre of the cannabis plant

With a surprised face, Rusty Iron Knight looked at me, but I greatly improved my defensive power by using 【Job-Guardian】 and 【Lord of the Mountain's Stout Hide】. Because I improved my offensive power with 【Job-Monk】 and 【Lord of the Mountain's Strong, Supple Muscle】, it wouldn't be a problem.

Or rather, to use abilities of this level, at least this much preparation is necessary to make sure I don't have to fear them dying from my attacks. If I didn't suppress my abilities at

least this much, I would pierce right through the enhancements I gave them. It really is a pain.

Then, an account of the result. Rusty Iron Knight's ragged form was rolling on the floor.

The guy’s got guts, but i think he might have overdid it a little. Well, he passed out with a pretty satisfied look on his face, so I guess he'll be alright.

As I was treating him, I noticed Ogakichi-kun staring at me.

That gaze said he wanted to fight him too. I see, Ogakichi-kun wanted to fight Rusty Iron Knight barehanded.

Surely, if Ogakichi-kun and Rusty Iron Knight go at each other barehanded, it would make for an even better fight than mine.

When Ogakichi-kun fought him before, he completely overwhelmed Rusty Iron Knight; but then it wasn't just about abilities or the like, the usage of so many magical items greatly affected the outcome.

The defensive power of his Tower Shield, 【Black Ogre’s Chopping Board】, was out of the ordinary; the fact that he could repel all of Rusty Iron Knight's Arts like it was mere child's play was proof of that.

That's why he wanted to fight bare handed, he probably wanted to win this time as well.

He wanted to win with his own power, without depending on any tools.

But, he had to wait just a little longer. While I said that, he was already waiting for time to pass.

In the current situation, his handicap would be too big.

After I had finished healing the now awakened Rusty Iron Knight, I had him fight Ogakichi-kun.

It was a great battle after all. Ogakichi-kun, who has higher specs than me, was about on par with Rusty Iron Knight. But in the end, Ogakichi-kun somehow snatched the win with his inexhaustible stamina.

It was a close fight, but they both looked like they enjoyed it; so, there's no problem.

Or rather, Rusty Iron Knight did. What was with that seamless adaptability he had? I asked him about it while sharing some Elf-Sake during lunch time.

He said he wanted to quit being a Knight of the Empire and join us.

Listening to his story, I understood that many subspecies lived in the place where he grew up. That's why there was no racial discrimination like what you'll see from people of the Empire and Kingdom, so there was no aversion.

In actual fact, because he didn't understand why the humans around him hated subspecies, he didn't mingle much with them.

Moreover, in the place he grew up, fighting was a daily occurrence, perhaps because of that Rusty Iron Knight was taught that it was natural to serve those who were stronger than him.

His servitude to the Empire was because he lost to the previous Knight-leader, so he never felt any loyalty in the first place.

And, when the previous Knight-Leader died in battle, he was replaced by some noble named, Bonbon, who he'd never even heard of.

Even so, if Bonbon had the ability, he would have consented to it. But Bonbon lost to Rusty Iron Knight without him having to use his real power; rather, he wasn't even at a level to give a regular knight a good match.

At least, if he had commanding ability, it still would have been acceptable. But, he didn't even have that. He only came to be a Knight Leader because of his connections.

For that reason, Rusty Iron Knight felt no loyalty to the current leader whatsoever. Infact, it was the opposite, he hated him.

But if that was all, it would have been alright. He could endure it.

But when the previous leader died, the other knights, who ate rice from the same kettle and had become the only reason for Rusty Iron Knight to stay, had their affiliation changed so that the other nobles, whom the current leaders were close to, could join the same unit.

As a result, for the new men to join as replacements, his comrades went to another knight unit.

Rusty Iron Knight, who had become the sub-leader, was the only one left.

The reason why he was left behind, was apparently for the sake of training the members.

Because he had become an instructor now, he kept on training without scamping his work. This strong unit was the result.

By the way, the current leader died of natural causes, being crushed by a rock. Come to think of it, I have this hunch that a normal soldier wearing splendid armor for no reason was there. But I'm not sure.

Returning to the subject.

Rusty Iron Knight trained all the new recruits. But, because Rusty Iron Knight was a commoner who worked his way up, he was on a different wavelength and had a different mentality than the other members who had noble upbringing; he couldn’t get along with them. He had also gained some real abilities recently, so the quarrels increased.

Everything became annoying and he had no good reason to stay; so, just when he met us, he'd already thought about quitting as a knight.

'This is fate', was my immediate reaction.

It seems to be the reason behind everything that happened.

I see, it's that simple and straightforward.

I knew that it was the truth, without a doubt, because he gave me this information when I used 【Command】 – which I did, just in case, to ensure he couldn't lie. I had no complaints and accepted him, as Rusty Iron Knight looked useful. It's best to use people who can be used, just like the elves.

Rusty Iron Knight's collar was released and the cuffs were inserted in his ears by his own will. After fastening the cuffs, I returned his full set of armor and his 'appearance' of the Rusty Iron Knight was back.

TL Note: 'cuffs were inserted in his ears' ← that's what the raw says

With this, Rusty Iron Knight was no longer a slave, but a comrade. Because no one else but me accepted him yet, I was looking forward to what he would show us next.

For now, he would be under my direct orders.

In the afternoon, I had to go out to do the setup for our hunting-cum-ambush location.

I had Rusty Iron Knight teach Redhead some Combat Arts in the meantime.

At this moment, Redhead only knew 6 Combat Arts in total.

【Slash】, to increase her slashing power of a single swing.

【Shield Bash】, to hit the enemy with a shield to obstruct movements with a certain probability.

【Stab】, to gather energy and increase piercing power to strike at a single point.

【Rush】, to raise the power of continuous slashing attacks but has long delays.

【Fall】, to strengthen one's body akin to a monster's by amplifying magic internally

【Versatile】, to freely use the abilities of a monster for a period of time by eating its flesh and blood.

If you are a 【Job-Warrior】, you can easily use the first 4 Arts aforementioned. The latter two are Arts that can only be used by someone who knows a specific 【Job】 like 【Job-Noire Soldier】.

For a fledgling adventurer, knowing 6 Arts is quite a lot, but the number of Arts that Rusty Iron Knight can use is greater than 70. Because, it seems like you can use them as soon as you start practicing Arts with a 【Job】, I intend to have him teach me as well when I obtain the prerequisite 【Jobs】 to gain the matching abilities.

A monster who can freely use the Arts that can only be used by humans.

Hm, when I use Arts, I should consider limiting the eye-witnesses as much as possible.

Day 73

Asue-chan dug out a hot spring.

Until now, to wash ourselves we either went to the river, or rubbed our bodies using towels which were soaked through by water generated from the water crystals and collected inside earthenware pots. But with this, I thought that we could relax by soaking inside the pseudo-bathtub; and strangely, I could feel that there were various mysteries about the location, geology and other things of this place.

Well, it's fantasy. Things like that can exist, probably.

That's why I collaborated with Asue-chan and co. For today, we devoted ourselves toward completing the onsen. Fortunately, there were some skeletons and some other unspecified creatures who were unneeded elsewhere. Using these skeletons, and others, I erected a working program that would be unthinkable, otherwise.

TL Note: Onsen = a hot spring, or a resort that has developed around a hot spring.

By using our abilities, and various feats of strength, we got all the work done before night came.

We divided the baths into three, one mixed bath, one bath with a division in the middle where men and women were separated and one where only Ogakichi-kun and the other top brass were allowed to use. It turned into quite a big place.

Despite some parts of the hot spring opening to the mountain's surface, it was hard to see from outside due to the obscuring boulders. Also, the steep cliff made it difficult for non-flying enemies to enter here.

But, saying it was 'just in case', we heavily booby-trapped the place.

Finishing our dinner, naturally the very first people who entered the completed hot springs were us.

The others, who entered the hot spring for the first time in their lives, were healed by it.

Just in case, we drank the water and confirmed there's no harm in drinking it; so there's no chance for someone to die from poison.

Rather, the hot water had the side effect of improving one's recovery just like one in a fantasy; so I will continue to use it from now on.

Well well, it was a good find.

Day 73 Sidestory: A Certain Woman Slave's POV

Hot spring, I have heard its existence from grandfather a long time ago.

With the high temperature water which begins to spring out from underground, one can feel the terrestrial paradise if soaked which got somehow spoil them self to some extent, it appear to be something like that. Since grandfather talked about far long time ago with nostalgic expression, I remember it well.

My hometown was attacked by a bandits, the house was burnt, and my family was killed. Only I who has gone out to the forest was saved by chance, until choosing present's to live applying to not as prostitute but a soldier, but I have hardly entered the thing which could be called as one.

Somehow I wipe my body with the cloth which soaked at the most, I went to the river that flowed nearby with a friend.

The male servant of the village came to peek and I haven't done nothing but hardly wipe with cloth at some extent because my body was numb in winter.

After I becomes a soldier though I improved by wide difference, yet I let a whole body soak in warm water, which means that I have not done it. I used the magic item which let warm water pour from overhead, which is called shower head.

And yet in this temporary bliss, how does it feel if I soak in the real hot spring? and even the imagined thing became a pleasure.

At time like that, the battle with the Elves began. The military unit where I belonged to will proceed.

I may be promoted if I achieve an achievement here. Though it was not worth much promotion as being a commoner, even so I was fired up to live a better life.

As a result, I was arrested and became a slave.

Got caught at first, I became a soldier since I hate selling my body as prostitute, then I thought that there was no future this time. It is nothing but being raped hereafter by goblins and hobgoblins, ended my whole life as essential member for breeding purpose, I thought that such dark life was my fate.

But it was different.

Goblins followed rules more than I thought and were gentle above all. Though it is distorted, but there are some attractiveness after I grow accustomed to goblins, it is mysterious.

The caught woman dies after being violated until becoming worn-out in the story heard from senpai, I live a life so as to be better than the previous part.

The bed is soft and fluffy, and the meal is delicious.

And then above all, today, a hot spring was dug up.

Half Lord who was anego-like existence called Asue dug it up.

Therefore, the plans was changed to the installation of the hot spring today, we also helped.

And, it completed it in a day. I think that it was fast to which I can understand the greatness of labor force known as the restless beings called skeleton.

After the executive class enters the completed hot spring first, we got permission to enter it.

Long-cherished dream, the hot spring was just as good as I imagined. Well, in fact it happen to be in front of my eyes.

My whole body is charmed to feels good that I cannot express when I soak slowly while my heart beat fast (doki-doki). It is the comfort which the bath begins to ache from fatigue from all over the body. The stiffen muscle of limbs is relaxed, bloodstream improves and the whole body flushes nice and warm.

When I attempt to drink the hot water, I learned a sense which vigor overflowed from the body.

If I can thoroughly enjoy this Land of Happiness every day from now on, is something particularly like this going to be all right? so I thought.

Yeah, it's not bad.

There is nothing but happiness here, it is that I discover it recently.

Day 74

Because of the traps set by us and the Elven army, the humans lost a lot of their numbers, and it appears to have slowed down their advance.

Father Elf taught us nasty twofold, threefold, and fourfold combination traps – they seem to have been very effective.

The humans realized that internal intelligence had leaked because their route for advancing had become a trap-laden forest. So, as a countermeasure the human army temporarily withdrew their front to revise their strategy.

While one of my clones infiltrated to gather detailed information, we started to set up a surprise attack for the Supply Unit, which was scheduled to bring supplies to the humans stationed in the forest.

Supplies are a matter of life and death during a campaign. This being a forest, food and water is easier to come by than, say, a desert; but due to the enemy's large numbers they would need more food than that, and they're also useful even if morale broke. Besides that, arms and armor are also subject to wear and tear.

It'll be especially useful to reduce their expendables, like arrows, from here on. Also, as we can use the weapons we take, we'll be killing two birds with one stone.

The Supply Unit came along from the plains.

We can't attack them on the plains; because obviously, we were too few in number. Our numbers, including the 47 prisoners of war, did not even reach 200 people; the number of those who can fight is even less.

In comparison, the Supply Unit consists of more than 600 people. Almost three times as much as us. Due to this difference in numbers, it would be stupid to attack on the open

plains. Well, they're not an enemy we couldn't defeat if we played our cards right, but considering the damage our side would take, it might be wiser to stop.

For that reason, we waited for the Supply Unit to arrive in the forest.

According to the information I obtained from Female Knight and Rusty Iron Knight, the supply unit had reached the kill point.

I looked at the slaves lurking behind me. Although some of the slaves' faces went pale because of it, I raised my clones' control power over them using [Parasite]; as a result, there are many among them that couldn't even move a finger out of their own free will.

It would be better if they would fight for me out of their own volition, like Rusty Iron Knight does, but I realized I didn't have another choice. To me, they are nothing but disposable pawns anyway.

Because it couldn't be helped if they'd look gloomy after this, I intended to make good use of them.

My next plan wasn't anything special. First of all, since Rusty Iron Knight was a friend now, there were only 17 male slaves left, I had ten simple Noble Knights, who didn't have any 【Jobs】 like 【Magician】 or 【Enchanter】, go ahead to the Supply Unit.

Then, we pretended to pursue them. Human Knights running away, followed by screaming, armed Ogres, goblins and kobolds, high on murderous intent. Watching something like this, it should be enough for the enemy to identify their friends, and usually, one would try to protect those who look like friends without question.

However, because their awareness would be focused on their enemy, there was a chance they would not help. But, it was a great success. After it was confirmed they had successfully infiltrated, we hid in a trench that we built a little further away and used our mass-produced Repeating Crossbows to fire arrows that were smeared with poison at our enemy, being careful not to hit the slaves. Those who could use magic used it to weaken

them, and the hobgoblin shaman had 6 ghosts use 【Despondent】on our enemy to add to the weirdness of the situation.

Because of the trees and bushes, the accuracy of our arrows and magic wasn't that high, but our enemy had the same problem. We just had to wait for the preparations to be complete, because all this was to gather them in one place, by stopping their advance, while we lessened their number.

After a while, the ten Noble Knights, who were mistaken as friends by our enemy, began their assault. They scattered the magic item Burst Seed, which is an original creation made by Alchemist-san and me.

It's made of materials you can find in the forest, like 【Oil Grass- Yusa】and 【Burst Fruit 】. Because it's quite powerful, even though it's easy to make, if you scattered it in a crowded place you could get about 50 victims injured or dead. Because it is so easy to mass produce, it's a very splendid magical weapon.

There is a chance you will kill yourself if you're too close to the explosion, but as I had the slaves use them, that didn't matter; because they're disposable pawns. I gave the order to keep using the Burst Seeds. If they died, we'd pick up the bones. The explosions of the 300 scattered Burst Seeds thundered through the forest for a moment.

Despite the fact that the explosions had ended, our enemy was still confused. I instructed Asue-chan's party to make the ground under the feet of the Supply Unit collapse. Because we'd done something like this before, she completed the task easily.

They only dropped about two meters, but that was enough.

Because of the sudden change in footing, they lost balance and were unable to run away. As before, we sent down a rain of poisoned arrows and a rain of magic from far away.

And the Elves, whom I'd told to climb the trees beforehand and stand by, sprinkled them with bottles of a venom that I had created myself.

As the venom was a quick-acting anesthetic, the soldiers who got hit dropped to the ground immediately. They weren't dead yet, but they wouldn't be able to fight anymore.

While I gave instructions, I also used 【Job-Minstrel】 and 【Red Crystal's Tone】. The sound that emerged from my singing voice, combined with an instrument that resembles a guitar, strengthened my allies and weakened my foes.

Because the Supply Unit didn't have any strong soldiers, it wasn't really necessary, but one cannot be too careful. It was possible enemy reinforcements would be attracted by the noise of the exploding Burst Seeds.

That's why we couldn't scamp our work until the end, but we finished the plan without trouble.

Three of the ten Knights who used the Burst Seeds were caught in the blast and died, five were injured by the fragments and the remaining two returned unharmed. Those were all the victims on our side.

I thanked the three who died for their work. Because their bodies were dismembered by the explosion, we all had a bite while we collected the food and prisoners.

By the way, Redhead didn't come with us. Even though she was no longer opposed to eating monsters, she had to abstain from eating any in front of humans.

Some of the Supply Unit's members were seriously ill. As it was a pain in the ass to heal them, we killed them right there – so they didn't have to suffer any longer. I ate all of their hearts and some of their bodies, and changed it into my own flesh and blood.

We ate as many dead enemies as we could. Only those who eat until their death will live. That is an article of my creed.

I also had the other goblins eat their share.

We took those with light injuries as prisoners of war, but they numbered exactly one hundred; all of them males. There were a few women but they died due to the attack.

Well, it couldn't be helped.

The numbers were sufficient; there's not much need to capture more needlessly.

As there was an insufficient number of cuffs and collars, I solved the problem by spilling some blood and cloning myself, then inserting 【Parasite】 into their bodies.

Note: cuffs and collars - from the previous days; used for enslaving them

Fortunately, there were many miscellaneous raw materials, like blood, in large quantities.

Ability learned: 【Continuous Thrust】
Ability learned: 【Helmet Splitter】
Ability learned: 【Stab】
Ability learned: 【Sneaking】
Ability learned: 【Armor Pierce】
Ability learned: 【Dance of Sword Storm】
Ability learned: 【Attack Force】
Ability learned: 【Job-Ranger】
Ability learned: 【Job-Supply Soldier】

I obtained various Combat (Arts) that I had heard about from Rusty Iron Knight.

From 【Continuous Thrust】 to 【Dance of Sword Storm】, they were all Combat (Arts).

In my case, I was pleasantly surprised when the experiment to activate my abilities and Combat (Arts) concurrently increased their power, compared to using them individually.

The prisoners and loot were brought back.

While we were on our way back, looking at the gloomy faces of our new prisoners, I suddenly thought of something.

We still had some space left in the cave, but it’s honestly complicated as the supply soldiers weren't that strong as pawns.

For that reason, I decided to distribute half of them to the Elves. Just a way of paying my debt.

We walked to the village of the Elves and had Father Elf buy them.

Because I have many pawns at my disposal, I have a wider range of options available to me, making this a prompt decision. As payment I received some useful stuff like magic items.

Incidentally, while we exchanged newly obtained information, I asked him about the secret medicine.

Even though it's strong, there are no side effects to its use and also has many practical applications. Because the power of the 【Demigod of Deep Green】 is subtly mixed within, it's extremely rare and displays the effect of an all-purpose medicine… This… Wouldn’t I acquire new abilities if I ate it?

Deviating a little from my original thoughts, I came to a sudden realization; I only remembered then that I had already been given the Elf's secret medicine.

Look, at the start of day 54 when I met Father Elf. He gave it to me as a present, together with some sake, but as I was too impressed with the Elf sake, it had been sitting unused in my item box.

Remembering this, I wondered why he had given me a precious secret medicine like that? When I asked him, he answered that it was against the law to give it to "humans", but it wasn't against the law to give it to an "Ogre" who saved his daughter.

That's pretty twisted. So, if the Empire hadn't sent a human to get the secret medicine, they could have gotten it. I drank the medicine on the way back.

Ability 【Rapid Regeneration】 learned
Ability 【Blood Elixir】 learned

My blood was turned into the secret medicine.

To experiment, I made one of the slaves, whose wounds were not yet healed, drink my blood and saw an unbelievable sight. All his wounds were healed in an instant.

What's this? Scary. If word got out about this, I might be targeted by humans for profit.

To look at the bright side, I raised my healing ability greatly; however, I still had the feeling that the resulting risk wasn't worth it. Because humans are greedy, arrogant, fragile, obstinate, but great in number, I have to take care they don't find out.

No, even if it was discovered, I just have to kill those who find out.

While thinking about such things, we returned.

Day 75

Today I didn't train in the cave, but instead went to the river with everyone.

Well, because the Ogres also had to fit, our bathtub is pretty deep; but due to that, many have drowned in it. Since many can't swim, it probably couldn't be helped.

But it's really troublesome if any of them die just because they can't swim.

So, I decided to have swimming practice today.

Because I'd been waiting so long for this opportunity, we went to the waterfall where the Green Lizards attacked me some time ago. Blacksmith-san doesn’t go out very often, but she came along for a change.

Because I had my clones scout the forest, I knew the Green Lizards still lived just above the waterfall and expected that they would attack us, but in the end they didn’t show up.

It's slightly disappointing, but since Blacksmith-san enjoyed the swimming, it's OK I suppose.

Day 76

It appears we won't get any new hobgoblins until the children are born. At this moment we have 15 goblins. All of them stopped leveling up after they reached level 100.

In short, these 15 goblins didn't have the ability to rank up. That's too bad. But, there's no need to grieve. If they can't become stronger quickly by ranking up, they'll just have to steadily train themselves to become strong.

“Training will never let you down. Even if you’re a Goblin, if you can become an Elite Goblin, isn’t that fine?”

That's what I said to the depressed goblins to cheer them up. There’s still room for growth amongst the kobolds on this side.

When I woke up this morning, we had two more Ashigaru Kobolds and one extra Kobold that can be called a Genin.

I put the Ashigaru into the scheduled training course then put my focus on the Genin Kobold.

TL Note: Genin = low-ranking ninja

The Genin Kobold has a short sword named "Bio-Sword"——a Sword version of the Bio-Spear——and he has a thinner build than a normal kobold.

His face still looks like that of a dog, but I can see a glimmer of intellect in his eyes, his physique is also closer to that of a human. Plus, he now seems to be able to use a kind of magic, sorcery - [Ninjutsu].

Edit Note: Ninjutsu: basically all the regular ninja special powers and whatnot.

Because he's a ninja and it seems like he would shine in areas like information gathering, I instructed him to always keep his presence hidden from today onwards. Doing so, his presence will become thin. I understand really well that his type excels in secrecy. In fact, hiding is natural for him.

Because the human army didn't show any movements yet, we went to the river to for some more swimming practice.

Day 77

Today I took a day off from training.

Studying, making love, training, and even hunting, there is a reason for everything.

In the morning I shed some sweat by going at Ogakichi-kun, Rusty Iron Knight, Redhead and Female Knight one-to-four in a martial arts match. Then I went and played with the pets.

After that I went to see the Sisters, who were preparing lunch, and tried a bread dish from this world called [Melzack], which looked like a sandwich. While snacking, on the way to Blacksmith-san who was as just as focused as usual on her research, I bumped into the guard elves and they a joined me as I proposed a new idea for a weapon.

To mass produce the Burst Seeds, I went to see Alchemist-san to devote myself to the production.

In the evening I went outside and enjoyed myself with Dhammi on a journey through the skies. The night air was a bit chilly, but that wasn’t a problem

We soaked our cold bodies in the hot spring to warm up again.

Then we went to bed together with everyone, Female Knight included as of late. I sweated a lot, but I'll clean myself in the hot spring tomorrow, so it's no problem.

I enjoyed the day off.

Day 78

Hindbear Kumajiro and the Black Wolf Leader, Kurosaburo, ranked up.

Kumajiro grew larger than a Red Bear with his grey fur becoming darker and a sharp horn 50 centimeters(20 inches) long made of obsidian sprouted from his forehead; it was no longer a Hindbear, but rather a “Demon Bear(Oniguma)”.

As Kurosaburo became as big as a warhorse, he could give me a ride now. Flames tinged with lightning leaked from his mouth with every breath and he has two heads with two separate minds, so it’s no longer called a Black Wolf, instead it’s a “Double-Headed Wolf (Orthros)”.

To find out the improved specs of the two of them, Ogakichi, the other Ogres, and me——in short, those of us who’d ranked up twice——us six along with our <<Familiars>>, a total of only 13 fighters, attacked the Human Army.

The reason we went with a select few was for the sake of leveling up.

Recently, our main purpose had been to increase our level. It was hard to do so, since we needed more EXP and we received less EXP with more comrades around.

There’s no problem in raising the overall strength of everyone, but in the end, one can only depend on themselves. As long as I'm weak there will be things I cannot protect.

That’s why I wanted to kick some ass around here and level up.

I left the base to the 5 former slave goblins, who looked like they would rank up soon, and Hobuji-kun, who recently improved his cleric abilities greatly. Besides, I also decided to entrust it to Rusty Iron Knight, who is acting as Redhead’s instructor and the Female Knight—who said “I pledged my sword of loyalty to you, and not the Kingdom, I want to be yours”—as well as some others.

Just in case, I also left three of my clones behind, so it was useless to worry.

Well, after all, the Human Army's aim is only the Elves.

I don't think they would go out of their way to attack the home of another race that's staying somewhere else.

Around 11 AM, I mounted Kumajiro and the others all mounted the rest of the Hindbears, then advanced into the forest.

The proportion of【Mages】 at our destination was low, but the unit stationed there consisted mostly of those who had occupations which were stronger in close-combat like 【Heavy Warriors】 and 【Knights】.

The unit was comprised of just under 600 people. There wasn't a single demi-human, only full-blooded humans. All of them appeared to be soldiers that had distinguished themselves in battle. Because another unit was stationed nearby, I intended to reduced their numbers as much as possible and then escape.

We arrived at the garrison after running for about an hour.

It's a shame that we couldn't deploy any undead to bolster our forces in the light of day, but as far as I could tell from what we could overlook from our position on the top of the hill, there was only one enemy we had to look out for. Equipped with a black iron short spear with countless small dark red bladed thorns protruding from it, was a white-haired venerable old knight donned with scale mail that emitted a divinely pale white light.

As the venerable knight was equipped with quite peculiar armor I could identify him from the "List of Formidable Opponents from the Kingdom and Empire" that I made using the information that Rusty Iron Knight, Female Knight and the others gave me.

Belonging to the Empire, he was a man known by the name ‘Aizen Ritter’, who was renowned as an adventurer in his early years. The black iron short spear is an 【Ancient】 Class magic item that he himself acquired from within the Empire's 【Gods Era Dungeon 】, it looked like a spear with the power to repeatedly inflict powerful ‘curses’ to the target with just the slightest touch of its blade, if I remember correctly the inscription reads: 【 Barbs of Cursed Time】.

The white scale mail that he had equipped seems to be a magic item made from the materials he got from killing the white dragon that was protecting the 【Barbs of Cursed Time】.

I absolutely wanted to taste the spear and armor, and its owner.

So, I decided that this troublesome Aizen would be the first enemy to be killed. By launching a surprise attack and removing the enemy's greatest force right of the bat, our chance of winning would increase; plus it’s safer.

I took out the Vermillion Spear, which I had never used in large army battles previously, from my item box and then loaded it into my Silver Arm, which I transformed into a ballista.

I raised my assassination success rate with 【Job-Assassin】, and because I attacked with a ballista, the abilities of 【Job-Archer】 and 【Job-Hunter】are activated. Moreover because I was using a ranged attack the effects of 【Throw】 and 【Needleshot】overlay for a further increase in accuracy and power. I then aimed for Aizen's body and fired the Vermillion Spear.

Aizen was standing close to the heart of the enemy’s camp. Measuring with just my eyes, the distance between us was about 200 meters, but the Vermillion Spear came flying at him like a red comet and pierced his body, despite it being protected by the white dragon scale mail. By hiding our presence as much as possible, it appeared that even the great

Aizen could not protect himself against such a powerful blow that came flying at him from outside his range of perception.

His last expression was quite impressive, it seemed to say that he could not comprehend what happened.

This was the start of the legend of surprise attacks.

Who cares about fighting fair and square.

After all, in nature where survival of the fittest is law, these who remain are the winners.

And so, my thoughts digressed from the situation.

After thinking about it all, I went back to observing the enemy's situation.

Because the Vermillion Spear that pierced Aizen didn't slow, it was stuck deep into the ground, leaving behind a pit matching its trajectory. Aizen's body now had a hole where his chest had been and around him I saw the figures of soldiers, just standing there, unable to quite grasp what had just happened.

Even though they realized Aizen had died, it seems like nobody had imagined that death would ever come for him. Maybe that's why they looked like they were hallucinating.

Perhaps they felt like it was all just a dream. But I didn't worry about that, I just waited for some people to gather around so I could use the power of the Vermillion Spear.

The moment I activated it, without any warning, the Vermillion Spear sprang out from the ground.

In an instant, countless Vermillion Spears appeared from their blind spot below their feet, killing more than a 100 soldiers and seriously injuring those within the 100 meters(328 feet) of the spear's range.

It would have been great to eliminate all of the enemies at once, but I didn't want to decrease the amount of experience points everyone could obtain.

Laughing at the commotion caused by the sudden attack, we charged the enemy.

We took advantage of the confusion caused by the surprise attack to devour the whole enemy camp. In their situation, it must have been hard for them to communicate. Which means, our surprise attack was a success.

It was very easy to feed on the confused rabble.

The speed of the Demon Bear, Orthros, the Hindbears and the Triple Horned Horses cannot be compared to the humans' war horses. In the blink of an eye we covered the distance from the enemy, spread out, and swung our weapons at the confused soldiers nearby.

After the enemy was sent flying like a doll by the tackle of Ogakichi-kun's <<Familiar>> , he swung his flame enchanted battle axe at the group of 【Heavy Warriors】.

Maybe it’s their ingrained habit, because despite the confusion, they were still able to quickly prepare their multilayered shield formation and guard against the battle axe’s slashing. Though, unable to protect from the flames that flew towards them, they were incinerated by the intense heat. Their shields were also bent all over from the extremely heavy attacks.

Long story short, those defending 【Heavy Warriors】were burned and thrown back with a dull sound like what you usually hear in a car accident or when you try to bend iron.

Even their defence doesn’t stand a chance against such powerful attacks.

As usual, he had great destructive power. Ogakichi-kun's 【Divine Protection】also increased the amount of heat he could use and the flames that raged around caused more damage than usual, creating a mass of charred bodies.

He was an Ogre who possessed a problematic tower shield that can bend and blow over opponents' shields while spreading flames around him.

Without a doubt, in the eyes of the enemy, he was definitely an object of fear.

Beside that, Dhammi-chan also used 【Eyes of Bewitchment】to control the enemies. Those who could not resist her were made to kill their allies.

She intended to make many victims without dirtying her own hands.

Of course it was impossible to brainwash everyone. She had to deal with the few enemies who used magic items, arts, or something else that was able to resist her 【Eyes of Bewitchment】 in person.

For them, she pierced her targets with the ice powers granted by her 【Divine Protection】, or cut apart their bodies with the Claymore she got from me as a present.

She looked like she enjoyed the blood of the murdered enemies pour over her like a shower; with a combined beauty and bewitching mystery, it made me aware of how frightening she is.

While screaming her war cry, Asue-chan's War-Pick smashed the earth.

The ground split open and swallowed the enemies that failed to escape, one after another. The risen earth wall also deprived the rest of the enemy of their escape route.

Because most of her attacks left significant openings for our enemy, they coordinated their timing and began to attack; but their steel swords were not enough to cause even a scratch to Asue-chan, who's a Half-earth Lord with an unusually high defensive power.

Normal attacks were pretty much useless against her.

After seeing that, there were some enemies that tried to use arts; however, the slight gap before the arts were activated became a target. Unlike the big moves she used until now, she burst their bodies open with fast attacks, like rock-crushing fists, kicks, and tackles.

Asue-chan's cheerful, hearty laughter reverberated throughout the air.

The muddy stream that Supesei-san created with magic washed away the soldiers who were a little further away.

Because it was an attack that seemed to dump humans into a washing machine filled with metal armor, spears and swords, the fate of these soldiers was miserable.

Masses of corpses were produced, and soon our faces showed wry smiles.

Around 30 blood swords that were created by Burasato-san shredded the enemy while brushing past. They even grew bigger by absorbing the blood.

The blades rotated at high speed and sliced the enemy within its range into small pieces. To make it worse, Burasato-san's red skin was died even redder by the blood she was drenched in. She looked like a Death God.

This one sided mass slaughter was a result of continuous fierce daily training that granted the monsters higher specs than ordinary humans.

While I thought about that, I cut down the enemy's numbers using my Halberd that Blacksmith-san had embedded with an elemental stone previously.

About 20 minutes after the attack began, the battle had ended.

The first hit of Vermillion Spear allowed us to surround the area easily, and I used 【Conceal】on everyone so even if there are any survivors none of them saw our real appearance. Because we achieved our goal, well, you know how it is.

I scraped together what looked useful, pulled the Vermillion Spear from the ground, then ate the bloody meat of our dead enemy.

Because there were so many, I raked them together with some thread and used 【Improved Digestion】, 【Vampiric Exploitation】 and 【Metamorphosis】to efficiently devour them whole.

Ability learned: 【Slicing Wind】
Ability learned: 【Storm Wind】
Ability learned: 【Inhibit Regeneration】
Ability learned: 【Recognition Obstruction】
Ability learned: 【Uppercut】
Ability learned: 【Heavy Slash】
Ability learned: 【Soldier's Lineage】
Ability learned: 【Knight's Lineage】
Ability learned: 【Job - Dual Swordsman】
Ability learned: 【Job - Master Axeman】
Ability learned: 【Job - Master Spearman】
Ability learned: 【Survival Instinct】
Ability learned: 【Familicide】
Ability learned: 【Enhanced Physical Strength】
Ability learned: 【Hawk Eye】
Ability learned: 【Job - Berserker】
Ability learned: 【Chickenhearted】
Ability learned: 【Job - Grappler】
Ability learned: 【Full Knowledge of Martial Arts】

Ability learned: 【Flying Slash】

Ability learned: 【Crescent Flash】

Ability learned: 【100 Blossoms 1000 Spears】

Ability learned: 【Rush】

Ability learned: 【Heavy Axe Attack】

Ability learned: 【Trap Creation】

Then I proceeded to eat today's main dish, Aizen.

It would have been fine to leave the armor and spear, but this time I decided to eat those too.

Ability learned: 【Grand Cross】

Ability learned: 【Job - Master Swordsman】

Ability learned: 【Job - Dragon Slayer】

Ability learned: 【Dragon Scale Formation】

Ability learned: 【Cursed Wound】

Our hunting went satisfactorily, we returned home with pleased expressions on our faces.

Day 79

Today I received word from Father Elf via the transmission device I had left with him. Apparently he needed to speak with me, since I was already training with Redhead and the Female Knight, I decided to take them with me as guards. The others were engaged between training, hunting and studying. I straddled Redhead on Kumajirou with myself and Female Knight rode atop Kurosaburou, together we went to the [Elven village].

Since I left almost immediately, there wasn't much of a risk for an information leak, and as I thought, no problems arose on the way there. Upon arrival I received some ill-looks from an Elf who was tending to the livestock. When I glared back at him he averted his eyes.

Well, by the time we arrived at Father Elf's mansion, I more or less let the irritating glares go. More or less nothing was said until the tea was served, though some sort of coco drink was provided for Redhead and Female Knight. Both of them were looking around the room with curiosity, it was their first time in an Elven village and after all, they are both humans.

They weren't doing anything rude or obnoxious so I let it pass.

Ah, the alcohol here is wonderful. After a drink I noticed that the Elf Maiden was behind Father Elf this time around.

We began with a minor discussion about the current progression of the conflicts while the Elf Maiden began pouring alcohol for the both of us. Naturally I drank the whole of it. The overall mood of the scene became merry.

After a brief while, after the setting had turned less grim and a bit of light chatting had been completed, we moved onto the main subject at hand. Apparently Father Elf is next in line to become the Lord of the village. He began by broaching the topic of the Human force's main assault force, and how to begin the attack with a combined effort of us at the Vanguard and supported by the full Elvish force. The reason for this is that this apparent

'Main force' is closing in on the Elvish village and would have the village surrounded within several days. Well, given that a prolonged war is not desired by either side, I can see the reasoning of this move.

Well, given our recent actions, I can see why the enemy is moving quickly for the kill. This situation is certainly not amusing for them. If the village is lost then the Elves will be taken advantage of, not that the troubles of the Elves specifically bothers me, but there is always the risk of dealing with stiff competition in the future should the forest be added to the control of the Sternbild Kingdom or the Kirika Empire. After the sheer quantity of soldiers we've managed to slay over the past week or so, I can only imagine the call for peace for both human nations involved. After such losses they will surely want to come to a swift conclusion to lick their wounds. Likewise the Elves want a swift end to this conflict, the war was never too popular and now that the entire village is at risk, the discontent is quickly becoming obvious.

Well, we are mercenaries after all, the requests of the employer cannot simply be disregarded. Father Elf made it clear that making this stiff request would not come freely and has ensured a substantial remuneration will be provided for our defense of his people. Even though he says that, I am not very keen to meet the full brunt of the human army head on. That is exactly what I have been avoiding with our guerrilla tactics. Seeing as there isn't much room for debate on this matter as time is short, we begin our plans. I was able to obtain the permission to hand over the elixir should I deem the situation called for it.

After an extensive discussion and planning, my party began preparations to return. I spoke to Female Knight on the way back to discuss the matter of the elixir I had in my possession. If worse comes to worst, I can use her as a diplomat to negotiate peace between the two conflicting parties. I could prepare the elixir from my blood and send it off to the kingdom to cure the princess and end the conflict. It certainly is not a terrible idea, gaining the favor of the Kingdom while having the Elves owe me an extensive debt that I could call upon at a later date. Since the Female Knight was the daughter of a noble, she would work well as a diplomat in the Kingdom's capital city, while an Ogre walking into town might not be the best idea.

I contemplate this idea as we progress.

Its a troublesome thing to think about, especially since we hold a substantial quantity of the Kingdom's forces as slaves. Humans are highly religious and what we have done is apparently against their religion. It is said that the current reigning queen is a strong believer in [Faith of the Five Supreme Gods] which is the currently the world's largest standing religion. It will be troublesome to negotiate with such people, and in the end the proposal that I would bring the medicine was rejected. Overall there was room for negotiation left, but as I began to consider the merits of handing over the elixir and the battle, the more I began to favor the prospect of negotiation after a decisive conflict.

With that over, I began to prepare for tomorrow's decisive battle.

Day 80

4:00 am - We began making our way through the military encampment of the human army. The commander is the heir to the Kirika Empire (currently 24 years old), he's currently present at the encampment of the human army as well.

The current numbers of the enemies are around 2000. There appears to be a slave unit that is attached to what appears to be an elite squad. It's headquarters is heavily defended with many guards posted to prevent intruders. They seem to have learned from our past attacks, their watch is near unbreakable this time around.

Our current forces stand at around 650 in total, 500 being a group of elite Elves that Father Elf himself leads.

There will be no prisoners of war this time, it's a straight out full confrontation with us at the front. This time there are no grand tricks, there will be casualties.

First, we need to consider the time. The current conditions allow for sufficient darkness to use my Black Skeleton Knights. This can give us an advantage in the early engagement, I won't lose any magical power since I can absorb magic from the darkness in the surrounding areas. At present, the only sources of light are several bonfires and the like.

Therefore, it doesn't seem necessary for us to simply charge in blindly.

It seems that the Heir of the Empire has a code of ethics similar to my own, given that there is a slave unit present. It is led by an apparent tyrant who carries out various cruelties. Therefore, I decided it would be beneficial to dispatch a Black Skeleton Assassin with the sole purpose of eliminating this man. The description was given to me by the Rusty Iron Knight, apparently the Rusty Iron Knight was not fond of this man. Fine by me, three birds with one stone. Once this man is eliminated, we can use this slave unit to cause chaos amongst the enemy's forces since the one who holds the control of their slave collars would be eliminated. There is the possibility that these collars are similar to my own, in which

case they may need to be removed. It also appears that this man employs the use of a Chimera, if it goes wild after it's master has been slain, then there wont be any need to slay the beast as well. Who knows, I might even be able to dominate the beast myself.

Hmm, such a thing should be considered, but I shouldn't be so certain that just because the master has been slain the beast will sense his death and go on a rampage and attack all humans in the surrounding areas. If by chance it does, then the distraction can be used to remove the slave collars. The beast appeared to be some sort of mix of certain parts of an elephant, tiger, snake, and a crab to measure nearly 6 meters.

Its time to begin, the master was slain, unfortunately it seems that the beast decided to just escape the area. I have to admit, that annoyed me greatly. Now that the slaves were free, we managed to gain additional numbers, though those that did not react immediately upon being freed were quickly slain by the elite squad presiding over them. The greater result of this first strike was that it removed a large quantity of the enemy's numbers and battle power. In addition, as the chaos over the slave rebellion ensued, I used my Black Skeleton Assassins to pick off individuals of importance. A few dozen humans were taken out without the humans noticing. But after a while I decided that was enough time spent on this tactic. Therefore, we began the attack and the human encampment became an all-out battlefield.

The sun soon rose and the movements of the [Black Skeleton Soldiers] began to degrade, soon the number of Skeletons destroyed began to increase steadily. Soon one of foolish human officers shouted out this obvious point to his men, it appeared to have an effect and their morale raised. The sun is now fixed in the sky and the Black Skeletons are now clearly visible. Even though they have lost a large amount of their effectiveness, I still want to delay a direct confrontation until a suitable opening appears.

While the sun had risen, there was still enough darkness in the forest to absorb more magical power. With the fresh corpses created by my undead slaves, generating new Skeletons was a simple matter. A quick bite wasn't out of the question either, but creating a larger fighting force took precedence.

While their movement may have been impeded by the rising sun, their strength is nothing to laugh at, while slower, in the numbers I am able to generate, they are still able to cut down a great number of humans.

Since the Skeletons proved effective, to increase the time I am able to field them I decided to start to put more magical power into each one while also increasing their resistances. As a result the combat effectiveness of the Skeletons rose sharply. The cries of horror from the humans thinking that the Skeleton Knights were growing immune to the sun brought a certain pleasure to me as a grin broke out on my face. Needless to say, the increased strength of my Skeletons caused the enemy's morale to fall greatly. As one would imagine, as the battle grew on, the number of humans fighting my Skeletons continued to increase constantly. Even though this was the case, the fact that the Skeletons continued to pour into the fray would cause an unavoidable constant drain on morale.

Sadly I couldn't just rely on the Skeletons forever, as the number of humans increased, the sun continued to rise and the number of Skeletons started to drastically fall. At that note, I gave the word for all forces to attack in multiple locations. Ogakichi-kun took the front where the fighting was fiercest while the others took their respective locations. The fighting became fearsome across the field of battle. With each of our strongest taking up a flank, the human moral quivered for some time, but each time somehow managed to rally themselves and come back stronger. This wont be an easy fight, I already watched two Kobolds go down after getting overrun by the humans.

Hmm? I think I just saw some Goblins over there take out the Chimera, good for them, I look forward to eating it once the fighting is through.

As I was watching this spectacle, I glance at a sole enemy at the human headquarters. It maintained a constant gaze at the engagement. From the look of it, the human has an unusually good state of attack. I activated [Job-Sorcerer] to break the focus of the enemy. Afterwards I activated [Job-Assassin] and [Recognition Obstruction] to hide my presence. Given that a large amount of strength is required, I decided to don the magic item [Hermit's Robe] as extra insurance to avoid detection.

This is all for approaching the Heir to the Empire and commander of the Human Invasion force. He wore a splendid suit of armor and carries a presence similar to my own. However, even while I am approaching, there is no killing intent. The reason for this is because if I were to kill the heir, it would make this conflict a personal war of vengeance for the Empire to avenge their lost Heir. This overall would be a bad situation and eventually result in the demise of the Elves. I seriously need to avoid killing him, the scenario where the Elves and the forest are absorbed into the Empire must be avoided at all costs. With a vast increase in numbers, we would be easily crushed under their foot.

I would prefer the ones in charge of the forest to remain the Elves given my good relations with them. Another reason to avoid going for the kill in this situation.

With all this considered, I quickly subdued the Heir. Drawing close to his ears, I give him directions to our location. While saying this, I slide a flask containing a red liquid into his pocket. I inform him that this is, in fact, the medicine that will be able to cure any illness. After saying this, I released him. Bowing his head as to show that he understood my intention. Following this, we separated to begin what had to be done next.

Since with this business was concluded. I called out to Asue-chan who creates a great clay wall which divided the two forces. This should be enough for the moment.

Before they manage to break their way through the clay wall, all of the bodies such as the chimera are collected. We gather up the injured as well as the survivors of what is left of the former slave unit's members and withdraw in a hurry. To be honest, I wanted to bring home as much meat as possible and have my fill, but for now, time is of the essence. Luckily, I took the time in the midst of the battle to partake in many things so for now, there are our prizes of war. Such as the chimera.

Sigh, patience is a virtue... Patience...

And so, we withdrew to the cave to treat the wounded. Since we requested a medical unit from the Elf Army when we were withdrawing, they arrived in a timely manner to aid in the treatment of the seriously wounded fighters. The rate of treatment greatly increased. Unfortunately, those that were slain on the field were not recovered because time did not

allow it. All of our 100 man "Former" slave unit managed to return. All of our elves also returned fully intact with the exception of those that are still wearing the slave cuffs that I left behind with Potsun. Even though there should be no more violence, an extra level of insurance never hurts.

In total, for the first time in this war, there were casualties. A total of 20: 3 Hobgoblins, 2 Hobgoblin Mages, 5 Goblins, 6 Kobolds and 4 male Elves have died. It was a brutal dogfight, and the enemy's strength was nothing to laugh at. I can say that it is probably good fortune that our casualties were only this severe given the situation. Those whose bodies were recovered were given a proper ceremony and burning. Prayers were offered and there was a great level of emotion in the air, many tears were shed today.

While there is certainly sadness in the air, I can't really say that I personally was sad. Not a single tear came out either. However, as usual I live my life greedily to some extend, and took some parts of each of them to consume. I only saw this as usual, so I paid it no mind.

I took part in the flesh of the chimera, even though I took small parts of each of the fallen on the way back to base, seeing each of their bodies burned bothered me a little. It seems wasteful to me to go through the trouble to bring them back only to burn them, sigh.

Ability learned: Synthesis

Hmm, this is an interesting ability that I received from the chimera. It seems that an ability that I already gained matches very similarly to the one I just received. I wonder if this applies to other skills in my arsenal. Well, for today, preparing beds for the former slave group should be prioritized for now. After soaking in the hot spring for a while, I headed off to my bedroom.

Hmmmm... If things go well, this could be where the war and the contract with Father Elf ends. With that last thought, I fell into a deep sleep.

Day 81

The sheer quantity and quality of the experience gained in yesterday's battle was a great deal, so there were a lot of Rank-Ups today.

Hobuji-kun, a Hobgoblin Cleric became a Half-Saint Lord.

He now stands almost 170cm tall. His limbs are a bit thin, but he is actually quite muscular over all. His skin is a pale white with black tattoos visible on the backs of his hands. He has Silvery colored hair reaching past his shoulders with Golden eyes.

Just like Supesei-san, he has an orb embedded in the middle of his forehead with two 5cm horns growing next to it.

As for his status, it seems that, like Supesei-san, he is a lower sect of the "Lords" category. His race seems to excel in protection and healing. As a test, we had him try healing a slave's wounds. The healing rate was leaps and bounds beyond what it had been before the Rank-up.

He also now had a new innate ability that covers him in a field of light. I tried hitting this field with my regular strength without any added abilities. He managed to hold up well against 20 of my regular strikes. Not bad.

Hmm, its quite a sturdy defense so I have to admit it was a little frustrating.

At any rate it was decided that now he would be called Seiji-kun instead of Hobuji-kun.

The next rank up was Hobufu-chan who was a Hobgoblin mage. She became a Ghoul.

I have to admit that I had a taste of the rotten flesh that she was generating, it was actually delicious. I have to say that it surprised me a bit.

Despite the fact that the Ghoul's body is rotten for the most part, there is still a black tattoo on the pale skin on her face and she had black hair. Her face appeared human at a single glance which I did not expect given that she is a Ghoul. Regardless, she gave off a strong atmosphere of danger around her.

Recently both Ogakichi-kun and myself were pleased with the rapid Rank-Ups of the troops. Though this time seeing the latest developments, somehow a light chill ran down my spine but other than that there isn't much else to say on that matter.

For Hobufu-chan it was decided that her name would change to Gurufu-chan. By the way, she can control her rotting flesh to a certain degree, so she won't turn into a pile of flesh, so that's one worry out of the way.

Hobume-chan became a Dodomeki with a series of tattoos throughout her body.

She stands at about 160cm tall with a feminine body. She has long black hair down to just above her waist, and she was quite a pleasant experience for my eyes if I'm entirely honest. I provided her with new clothes, because the old ones didn't seem to... well.. suit her anymore. I decided on a white kimono style clothing set.

Oh, just to mention, her white kimono-style clothing had an enchantment like [Bio-Sword] but it is [Bio-Armor].

Apparently her race handles a wide variety of witchcraft with the trade off of very low physical capabilities across the board. But as to what her race is fully capable of will have to be gained through experimentation and training.

This isn't all too bad, a wide variety of different classes with me dominating the front and tactics of warfare isn't too bad of a deal.

As for her name, I decided on changing Hobume-chan to Dodome-chan.

At the same time, 5 Goblins, including one that was part of the previous slave unit we liberated, Ranked-up into Hobgoblins.

As for the rest of the Hobgoblins, 7 others also ranked up, most of them aren't really worth mentioning, but 2 of them turned into Ogre Mages. They stood tall and appeared very strong. They had large muscular bodies, with black tattoos, standing roughly the same height as myself. They gave off a hearty laugh and appeared to be perfectly suited to the battlefield.

They were each given a set of large firearms and camouflage clothing. If you were to look at them at a glance, you would be hard-pressed to see them.

They were renamed respectively.

As for the Kobolds, 6 of the common Kobolds became Kobold Footman, the leader who had been the first Kobold Footmen had become a Kobold Samurai.

He was equipped with a kimono and vermilion colored gloves that have tones of black. His appearance was that of a man in his late thirties. He had a sword around his waist, with dog ears and a tail.

It would seem the further that the Kobolds Rank-up, the more human they become. Sigh, the Kobold Leader looks like some old uncle from an anime, this is terrible!

Well... Appearances aside.

His name would simply be the Samurai Leader to me anyways. It seems that he is able to draw from the [Mana] of this world to some extent, and his presence is far deeper than it had been before.

The Samurai Leader's [Mana], according to him, was used for the technique [Noriyuki Tsuji Akikazenotsuji].

By the way, if I were to inquire about [Mana] from the others, I'd be generally looked at like a fool.

In general, from what I can gather, [Mana] is an energy form that is gathered within the body or magical weapons to perform certain abilities and or attacks.

This fact troubled me slightly, but I suppose I've just been doing it unconsciously so I didn't bother worrying about it too much.

After dealing with my main force's Rank-Ups, I sent everyone off to celebrate with the spoils of war.

As for me, I feel it's time to have a word with the surviving members of the slave unit. More than half of them had decided to return to their respective towns, but none of them had requested such things as travel expenses. I saw them off with some food and that was that.

After seeing them off, I went around completing various tasks such as clearing more space in the cave for living quarters and expanding the training grounds. I helped oversee the food getting passed out and provided the cooking team with the cooking utensils that were looted from the human army during our various raids. Currently, no one is receiving a salary, but I suppose if we grow large enough, some members may require it in the future.

After some thought, I decided that providing some wages might serve well to convince some of the slave army to stay and participate in my mercenary group ≪Parabellum≫. For some of them, there was not much of a home to go to, and the others were born into slavery so joining seemed to be their best options to begin with. While hourly wages would surely be expensive, I'm sure some manner of compensation can be arranged, such as payments and shares in the spoils of war during Missions. This way would be far less harmful to the over all funds I have access to. I wont deny my greed in this regard.

Roughly fifty people decided to join:

3 "Lords"
5 "Half-Lords"
4 "Drago-newts"
6 "Half Drago-newts"
10 "Ogres"

1 "Troll"
5 "Lizardmen"
5 "Dwarves"
1 "Dullahan"
3 "Ape-men"
1 "Dhampir"
3 "Redcaps(Murderous Gnomes)"
2 "Tigerman"
1 "Centaur"

Even with the new additions, I still consider the strongest race present within the group to be the Hobgoblin group for stability reasons. Not to say that some of our newest additions lose out in firepower. The Lords and Drago-newts certainly are of a similar degree of power.

It's not a problem since they all joined in separately with no attachments to one another. But the fact remains that alone, I would be hard pressed to quash a mutiny should it arise. More or less, the reason I am in charge is because I am the strongest member of the group. For now, that remains the case, but in the future, I will need to make sure that I remain as such or risk losing control of the group all together.

In practice bouts, the Redcaps, Lizardmen, Centaur, Dwarves and the Lords managed to win out against the lower ranked Hobgoblins, but it becomes an even fight against some of the higher level members. The purpose of this was to develop a better sense of unity with the new members, the worse case scenario would be that internal divisions begin to form. Thus, I want to take as many precautions as possible to avoid such a development.

I took some time to do some training with some of the new members. Though in my opinion, the time spent could have been used more effectively elsewhere. I still need to ensure that the Hobgoblins play an essential role in the group's future, but for now the top priority is getting the new group of fighters acclimated. In the hierarchy of our force, Goblins currently remain the lowest status of fighters, who are treated as training soldiers until they manage to Rank-up.

Next, I was dealing with the complaints of the former slaves group. Of course I granted them my time, but it turned out to be a cumbersome process. It turned into a scene of "I want to lead" and "I want a higher position." This was mostly coming from the Lords and Drago-Newts, but the Half-Lords and Half Drago-Newts also piped up after some time. All in all, the number of the new members from the former slave unit wanting higher positions numbered fourteen. After some minor bouts and diplomacy, the clamor for change and number of upstarts was dealt with.

As for the Tiger People and the Dullahan, they shared a similar feeling that "To not return the kindness of giving us freedom would be dishonorable." It would seem that these people hold the mentality of warriors. I like this kind of attitude more, it's far easier to deal with a professional soldier than it is with lone-wolf types. After coming from the other group where each one of them wanted more power for themselves, this was a welcomed change. Training these people will be far easier than the other group.

I decided to hold some bouts with my upper group of leaders to demonstrate the strength required to become a leader of ≪Parabellum≫. First, up I pitted a Lord with two Half-Lords up against the Rusty Iron Knight. The reason I pitted the Rusty Iron Knight up against these Lords was because the man had already proven he was very resistant to flame damage.

The reason being that these Lords (and "Half-Lords") possess [Wind Lord's Gale] and [Fire Lord's Inferno] which both deal out large amounts of high-level damage. A good compatibility for the Rusty Iron Knight. I was almost tempted to pit all fourteen of the group that clamored for better positions against the Rusty Iron Knight all at once, but I thought better of it. Just these three should be enough.

The fight was enjoyable, but in the end the Rusty Iron Knight came out victorious. That, more or less, put an end to the newcomer's complaints and demands for now. I hear talk now and then from one or two of them, but there shouldn't be much of an issue.

Just then, I suddenly took a full [Wind Lord's Gale] combined with two [Fire Lord's Inferno] from the Lords. Well, I can't say that I killed any of them this time, but as

punishment, each of them was beaten within an inch of their lives several times thanks to my healing abilities. By the end of it, their rebellious nature was more or less gone.

"Good," I thought to myself. Nipping out as much rebellious tendencies with as few casualties as possible is what I prefer.

Right after I had finished dealing with the Lords and Half-Lords, I was struck with an ability from behind. I didn't worry about it too much, given my healing abilities. Turning around, I saw that it was the Drago-Newts this time. In an instant, they set upon me with [Thunder Dragon Strike]. Moving at lightning speeds and dressed in a veil of thunder, they each struck me with their attacks with an immediate follow up with [Breath of Lightning and Thunder]. I can say this, they certainly could pack a punch. But enough aside in that instant, I had already activated my numerous resistances and was prepared to take on any elemental strike they had. After taking their most powerful attacks, they seemed a little fatigued but overall still prepared to fight. I began my counter attack, and in a fraction of the time it took them to assail me, I brought them all to the floor. Guts and blood were splattered everywhere with each of them unconscious.

While I was treating them to ensure they wouldn't die on me, I felt a painful sensation from my neck. It appears the new Dhampir was firmly attached to me and was attempting to drain my essence. Using my [Metamorphosis], I prevented her from causing me any damage. With a single swing using [Great Strike] and [Great Swing], I sent her flying in to a wall. That strike was an instinctual response, it probably could have killed more than half of our members and could have probably put even the Rusty Iron Knight down a peg or two. When I turned, she had left a crater in the wall and was embedded in it as well. Her arms looked like putty, and there was blood splattered everywhere. Pulling her out, I mended her broken bones, which from her spine to her skull were completely shattered. Luckily, as a Dhampir, her vitality is unreal. After that, I bit her neck and using my own Vampiric abilities, shared a small quantity of my blood with her. Given that my blood is a powerful elixir, she almost instantly recovered to full health. She looked up to me almost like a lost puppy, without thinking about it I put my hand on her head, and her face turned bright red. With that, she ran off in a hurry.

Once again, I felt a stabbing sensation in my back; the cause was the final Drago-Newt who had been waiting for a chance and had stabbed me in the neck. With my defense abilities all active, it barely broke the surface. I bent my arm around in an instant and grabbed him by his neck. Begging for his life he pointed over to the Ape Man claiming that he convinced everyone else to attack me to subjugate me. Without a second to process this information, I found myself sent flying. The cause was the Ape Man, who had rushed towards me with great speeds and had tackled me. I flew for half a second and collided in to a stone wall nearly 50 meters away. While I was getting back up, the Ape Man was drumming his chest like an idiot. I closed the distance in 0.1 seconds and presented my knee to his abdomen. The vitality drained from his eyes and he fell to the floor. Using a drop of my blood I prevented him from dying, but for this one, I'll let him suffer for awhile.

Needless to say, for now, I've put slave cuffs on the newcomers that had attacked me. Other than that, training went as usual, with everyone at decent levels, the difficulty of the training has been increased for the higher level fighters.

In the afternoon, I escorted the five Dwarves to the smithy to become blacksmiths for us. While each of them would prove to be great soldiers on the front line, having Dwarven blacksmiths is simply too great to ignore. I put them under Blacksmith-san and put them to work right away. The Dwarves were a bit stubborn and their initial work was a bit weak. It will probably take some time before they get used to the environment. In the future they may even begin to produce mithril and magical weapons with Dwarven runes, so it's fine for now.

I took the time to watch over the afternoon training session with Ogakichi-kun. Apparently, the newcomers are still complaining at times. Training under a battle junkie like Ogakichi-kun, each of the lower level newcomers fought in pairs against my Black Skeleton Knights.

After the initial fighting, I called a break and changed the lower teams into groups of ten against one of my [Black Skeleton Knights]. There were some severe injuries, so to avoid any further accidents, I put them in greater numbers to learn about coordination at the very least.

Since all was dealt with, I decided to use something that I've been meaning to try out. Its an ability called [Synthesis]. I've been meaning to try this out for a while, but I just haven't had the time. I took out the Ogre Orbs and spheres that I had confiscated from the Lords and Drago-Newts earlier after I had put them in their places.

Both of these items are rare items that hold a substantial amount of worth. I got down onto my knees and used the ability [Synthesis].

The result was a success, I had managed to infuse the Orb with the [Wind Lord's Gale] ability. I used this ability on some of my equipment and other items. For now this is not a big deal, but who knows, there may be benefits to experimentation.

For now, I'll leave it at this.

Day 81 Sidestory: Gurufu's POV

It was an intense fight yesterday.

And at such an intense moment, the experience we gained was huge, I and Hobuji... no, Seiji were able to 【Rank Up】 thanks to that.

Seiji became a 【Half-Saint Lord】, I am a 【Ghoul】, Hobume became a 【Dodomeki】 after us.

Additionally our siblings and kobolds evolved too, the leader of the kobolds Akitainu-san from a 【Kobold Footmen】 became a 【Kobold Samurai】.

This was the reward of our hard work, we're delighted.

However, more than himself, I am more glad for how Seiji evolved.

Something like Ogarou x Seiji hmm, Seiji x Ogarou wouldn't be bad, Ogarou x Ogakichi would be good too~.

Wrapped in Ogarou's muscles −− a prohibited perusal −− and −− **[the rest is omitted]** −−.

Gufufu, the delusion **D O N' T S T O P!!**

Day 82

As I have found out the hard way, the cost for using [Synthesis] is quite taxing on the body, both physically and mentally. As a result of my using [Synthesis] yesterday, I found myself falling asleep in the workshop only to be woken up by a very nervous Goblin.

Afterwards I decided to test [Synthesis] further on the orb. In case I risk losing the abilities, I suppose I'll use some of my pointless abilities such as [Minor Damage in Light] and [Sunlight Vulnerability]. Hmm, it seems the weaker the abilities I transfer, the less of a cost I need to pay to complete the process. It seems that the process wasn't a failure. From what I can tell, the process of [Synthesis] leaves whatever abilities that I imbue objects with is irreversible. For now, I think I'll leave the experiments at that until later.

It's still unclear to me as to how the process of [Synthesis] works after my Rebirth. All I can be sure of is that this was an ability I had in my previous life. So far from what I can see, the [Minor Damage in Light] was still present. I had tested this by sticking my finger out in the sunlight when trying to activate the ability. Surely enough, it started to burn slightly.

Yeah, getting sun burnt as if I had a human body did have its funny side. The two abilities were also synthesized into the orb, but have not disappeared. Though even though this has worked, I can't be totally sure of the cost to activate the abilities I imbue objects with, nor the number of abilities I can put into a single object at one time. Well, for now, confirmation that I won't lose the abilities I synthesize into objects is fine. That doesn't mean I won't use caution in my future experiments though.

Today, I decided to leave the training of the newcomers to Ogakichi-kun. I really do enjoy the hot springs and I decided to go with Asue-chan and some of the other girls to relax for awhile. Our current number of man slaves numbers at sixty-two people, adding on to the near countless number of Black Skeleton Knights I can produce, we have a large number of expendable forces. At the same time, I decided to use these people and my own Skeletons to set out to make improvements to this settlement. From building new beds and clothing,

to building equipment for the training center and a wooden wall to aid in the defense should enemy forces find their way here and surround the settlement. We've also set out to vastly expand the hot spring to earn gold from Elven tourists. There were other minor things that I won't even bother mentioning though.

The Elves seem to enjoy the hot spring as much as we do. You should have seen their reaction when they discovered we had uncovered a hot spring. The rumor apparently got to even Father Elf now, who visited and requested access to the hot spring. I foresee the hot spring becoming a very profitable venture.

Today's synthetic results.

【Dragon Scale Formation】 + 【Armored Scale Formation】 = 【Armored Dragon Scale Formation】

【Predict】 + 【Expanded Field of Vision】 = 【Ephemeral Eye】

【Pump Up】 + 【Lord of the Mountain's Strong Muscles】 + 【Enhanced Physical Strength】 + 【Enhanced Leg Strength】 + 【Improved Jumping Power】= 【Black Ogre's Strong Body】

【Intimidating Roar】 + 【Scaled Horse's Neigh】 = 【Black Ogre's Roar】

【Evil Eye】 + 【Intimidating Glare】 = 【Black Ogre's Evil Eye】

【Lesser Damage Reduction】 + 【Lesser Magic Damage Reduction】 = 【Lesser Physical and Magical Damage Reduction】

【Inhibit Regeneration】 + 【Cursed Wounds】 = 【Unhealing Cursed Wound】

Sigh, since the effects of Synthesis is extremely draining, today's experiments ends here.

Day 83

Today's morning started off with some training, I decided that I wanted to test out my newly synthesized abilities.

To confirm the affects of the abilities, I decided to take on 23 of the newcomers by myself. I chose the members so that even if I used too much power, there wasn't a risk of an accidental death.

The newcomers that I decided to allow into our ranks:

2 "Lords"
5 "Half Lords"
4 "Drago-Newts"
6 "Half Drago-Newts"
1 "Troll"
1 "Dullahan"
1 "Ape Man"
1 "Dhampir"
2 Tigermen

More or less because they had already fought together on the battlefield, their cooperation with each other was pretty good. That said, the decadence caused by their reliance on the Kirika Empire's technology is easily noticeable. Although they have speed, there is too much wasted movement. It's far too easy to read the flow of their movements. Even though I say this, it's not like I didn't get out of it without any damage. There was some minor impacts and the sort but nothing that wasn't recovered immediately by my recovery abilities. After lunch, we paired up, and it became some good training.

Without my abilities activated, I have to admit that handling five of them would have been troublesome. They are quite strong after all. However, I still can't risk testing out my [Demise] Magic on anyone, the sheer power is still far too dangerous and it's almost certain

that anyone besides Ogakichi-kun would perish if they were hit by it. Even Ogakichi-kun might not survive if he takes it head on.

That afternoon, I decided to oversee the many improvement projects around our settlement. The preparation of the public hot springs is progressing steadily. Since the war between the Elves and the Humans has settled down, I can finally start using the human slaves for tasks other than war fodder.

...So many possibilities.

Day 84

This morning, I woke up to someone calling my name.

I got up from bed and followed the person calling for me to Blacksmith-san's workshop. It is very early in the morning so not many are awake yet. When I got to the room there, in front of me was a pile of items such as mithril, spirit stones and steel. In the corner, there was where I saw it. A single War-hammer, with the Dwarves hovering around it. Upon investigating it, the work was of a more basic design, but the effectiveness of it was certainly above average.

After finishing my examination, I passed it back to the Dwarves.

I did this as a sign of gratitude and friendship to the Dwarves, this action represented me bestowing something that they found worthy for me to wield back on to them, for me seeing them as worthy members of the settlement. For this there could be no greater act of kindness to a dwarf. To me though, I may have kept it if it was a higher quality, but for something such as that, it is best to remain in the hands of a race that commonly uses war-hammers, unlike myself. Of course, after seeing their reactions, I decided to keep this thought to myself.

After giving my thanks for their hard work, I looked over some of their other creations. There was a sword that I found to be of considerable quality that the Dwarves called [Wazamono] (Swift Cutting Blade). Now something like this, you can appreciate.

Even so, conversation with the Dwarves is a little bit sketchy and cumbersome, each of them seems to use a different dialect which makes communication quite difficult. Though, that's not to say I couldn't manage a conversation, I've always been pretty good with languages.

After the normal morning training, I decided to take a trip through the woods, solo.

A forest where there are no more threats and no more chances to fight for my own survival made my heart feel almost empty inside. Like there was a hole in my very being that I could no longer fill.

The days where I was constantly on alert, hunting through the woods with joy, searching for new and interesting things seems so distant, though it has only been about a month since then. Now those nostalgic days with danger have passed, and I am left here, riding on my faithful companion Kumajirou.

Of the number of places I've traveled to so far, I eventually arrived at the Dryad's grotto. I had made brief conversations using my clones because I was always so busy, but today, I came in person.

As usual, Dryad-chan was breath-takingly beautiful. Although I was deeply taken in by her invitation, time was pretty short and I had errands to finish. After I finished collecting the materials that i needed. I spent a little more than an hour... getting reacquainted with Dryad-chan...

Well... I did say I was only going to spend an hour, but an hour turned into two, which turned into 6...

Eventually my stomach got the better of me, and I bid my farewell.

Today, I discovered that the stomach of one of the humans I spent time with has begun to swell.

Well, at this rate, it seems my first child is on it's way.

This is pleasing.

Day 85

Today's main goal is to increase our efficiency in gathering and processing our food supply.

Dryad-chan came by and helped by manipulating the seeds that I had collected from the forest into various new species of plants using her magic. The effect Dryad-chan's magic had on the seeds was that the vitality, growth of the plant and the taste of the product were all better. I also used Spirit Stones to further this effect.

Thus, today's training will be physical labor in the form of plowing a field for the new farm.

As farming is related to Redhead's [Job-Farmer], I gave her control of this operation and transferred various workers under her instruction.

I enjoyed working up a sweat today. Sometimes manual labor isn't all that terrible.

Today's Synthesis results:

【Armored Scale Charge】 + 【Armored Dragon Scale Formation】 = 【Solid Armored Dragon Scales】

【Improved Slashing Power】 + 【Improved Piercing Power】 = 【Improved Slashing Penetration】

【Quick Thinking】 + 【Parallel Thinking】 = 【Faster Parallel Thinking】

After all the Labor for today coupled with several experiments with [Synthesis], I found myself very tired all of a sudden and fell asleep sitting up in my chambers.

Day 86

In the morning, there were several things I needed to address. The first was offering anyone that wished to leave the group a chance to depart with enough to cover their traveling expenses. I took measures to ensure there was no information leakage if they wanted to live out their lives in safety.

After seeing them off, I selected 36 of the prisoners of war who stood out as men of nobility to send home. It's not that keeping them here would cause any trouble for my conscience. Though today the human army is making a full withdrawal from the forest, it's the perfect opportunity for me. I had Dhammi-chan brainwash them with her [Eyes of Bewitchment]. I plan to use them as spies to collect and send me information regarding the human Empire and Kingdom.

It's not like I'm all too keen to oppose either country particularly, but in any case, right now I'm sorely lacking information about this world. Given that my connections to people of importance currently are also quite limited as well. Even though we have won this time, by taking these extra steps, this will ensure that there won't be any hidden failures in the future.

After releasing the brainwashed nobles, I returned to oversee a special training session with my subordinates. Then, training went on as usual.

By the afternoon, the human forces had withdrawn completely. After confirming that our spies had safely infiltrated the enemy ranks, I contacted Father Elf with the communication tool.

After I received the full reward for the proper execution of our contract, we had a little chat. After that, I received an invitation to the [Feast of Sotomash], a festival held by the Elves in memory of their fallen friends and family. This is done so that the dead are free to pass on from this world without regrets.

That evening, I brought a decent number of my Elven followers to the ceremony, while they may be a part of my settlement now, the fact remains that some of the Elves that perished may have been their close relatives. At the very least, I can allow this much. I altered their appearances using [Conceal] so that they wouldn't be identified by the Elves in the village.

By the time I returned with my Elf followers, the feast had already begun.

Ignoring the number of various emotions from both the Elves of the village and my own followers, we entered the venue and passed tens of cows worth of meat, all presented elegantly upon a long table. It was there that I was greeted by Father Elf.

I had left Redhead behind to look over the settlement while I headed out. Both the Rusty Iron Knight and the Female Knight came with me, it appears they wanted to pay their respects to those they had a hand in leading to their demise.

After we exchanged greetings, my party disbanded among the crowd and we all took our seats around the table to engage in light talk. The food looked fantastic, and I could not wait to dig in.

Just then Maiden Elf-chan walked up to me and poured an expensive Elven wine for me, the mood around the table was in fine spirits.

Around the end of the feast, we all gathered around a massive bonfire that had been created in the center of the venue. It was in the shape of a large white ball. According to Father Elf, it is to symbolize the spirits of the fallen and their ancestors, and that by burning it, they may pass in to heaven.

I once had a discussion with one of the Hobgoblin shamans before, he claimed that when you perform funeral rites, that he can confirm the lingering spirits move on.

It was a nice day. With this, the Elves within my settlement should have no more regrets.

Day 87

For awhile now today, Asue-chan has been mining, a majority of her time was all in the effort of recovering two gigantic Spirit Stones. Just now, I received a report that she had finally succeeded in freeing them.

Now, more or less a majority of the Spirit Stones have been depleted from the cave. Originally, there was such a variety and quantity of stones within the rocks because of the close proximity to Velvet's Dungeon and the high level of magical density within it. After the death of Velvet and the death of the administrator of the dungeon, there wont be a great deal of Spirit Stones that will find their home within our mines often anymore.

Normally, Spirit Stones are a renewable resource.

Unfortunately, since we've 'conquered' the dungeon, the stones are no longer purified by the magical density. So once we exhausted the Spirits within the stones, the energy ends there and is destroyed permanently.

However, for the moment, due to Asue-chan's efforts, we have managed to extract an awe-striking quantity of all varieties of Spirit Stones. Because of this, I think we can turn down the mining efforts for now.

All of these stones represented a tremendous level of profits to be had in sales and production of magical weaponry.

After brushing away a slight moment of unrelenting greed, I proceeded to consume several of the smaller stones as well as part of one of the gigantic ones. My reasoning was that I had yet to consume these types yet.

Ability learned: 【Photon Ruler】

Ability learned: 【Photon Tolerance】

Ability learned: 【Gravity Law】

Ability learned: 【Darkness Tolerance】

Ahhh, so the names of these two massive stones were the "Light Precision Stone" and "The Seminal Stone of Darkness". Each holding a purity, size and beauty unmatched by any other stones we had yet uncovered.

When I had consumed part of the Seminal stone, my throat felt as if it were a Black Hole. The energies released were intense to say the least. At first I complained because the name "Seminal Stone of Darkness" implied nothing of gravity. I suppose an ability is an ability. I'll have to experiment with it during the training session later today.

After thanking Asue-chan for her hard work, I set out on my usual tasks of overseeing the renovation of our settlement. Seeing that everything has been proceeding according to plan, I made the decision to make preparations to set out. Since I had promised Redhead I'd take her to a large human settlement, I decided I would bring her with me when I set out. The first thing I needed to do was secure a horse-drawn carriage, that much is essential. I could normally use one of my familiars, but the effect on human civilians might be an undesirable one so I decided against it.

Ah right, first things first, the mass production of Black Skeletons for the daily training sessions. If I am gone for a good amount of time, there needs to be adequate replacements for training in the case that the Skeletons are destroyed.

First, gather the necessary quantity of bones.

Second, construct it's appearance and general form.

Third, form the general appearance and resistances.

Fourth, create the armor and weapon it will use.

After completing this task several dozen times, it was already evening.

After a nice dinner of rice and meat, I called Redhead, Blacksmith-san, the Sisters, and Alchemist-san together. I informed them that within the next few days I planned to escort them to a large human settlement.

They brought up some concerns that the humans might try to expel us due to my appearance. There might also be some who remembered me from the battlefield and would create a scene I suppose. But at the moment, that was the extent of our conversation. I still plan to depart within the next few days regardless of what awaits.

Day 88

Today, the guest hot spring and spa were completed.

Overall, everything was calm today. Many of the members of the settlement came to help prepare for the departure.

Although there was a drastic decrease in population due to the loss of around half of our slave labor at the end of the war, if you think about it, it's not really that big of a concern anyway. There was a benefit to releasing them. Less discontent, fewer mouths to feed and spies in both the Kingdom and the Empire.

Things have finally gone back to normal.

For now, I've given orders to stockpile preserved food.

There was some basic training, and I did some odd jobs here and there.

Today, life was quite peaceful. I don't mind a day like this once in awhile.

Day 89

Tomorrow is the set date that the six of us are supposed to head out on our first trip.

As an added bonus, we can gain experience on the way as we gather as much information about the surrounding areas as we can. But, I have to admit, the biggest reason by far for this trip is because the quality of experience to be gained in this forest has become pitiful as of late.

All that there is to worry about is the destination and possible detection from potential hostile forces. I don't need to worry about being attacked or hijacked, but it would be troublesome if the cart were damaged on the way there.

Of course, I won't be going with just the human girls this time around. Each group will be roughly five to ten people, excluding the familiars of course.

The members are as follows:

The first group is myself, Dhammi-chan, Redhead and the other Human girls, and three Lords.

The second group has Ogakichi-kun, Asue-chan, one Hobgoblin Cleric, three Humans and four Kobold Footmen.

The third group has Burasato, Supesei-san, three Elves, one Human, three Hobgoblins and one Hobgoblin Cleric.

The fourth group has two Ogres, one Hobgoblin mage, two Tigermen, two Dragonewts, and three Humans.

The fifth group has Dodome-chan, five Ogres, two Humans, the Kobold Samurai, and one Centaur.

The choice in personnel was carefully chosen to avoid any conflicts on the way to our destination.

At first, there was minor hesitation to bring along the newcomers after the commotion they had caused several days ago, but after being put through my various methods of ... rehabilitation and... explanation of the hierarchy... I'm sure there wont be any further issues involving them in the near future.

The leader of the newcomer's group was decided by them. Although it seemed to almost be an arbitrary decision on their part, it was for the purpose of not personally choosing a leader. By letting them choose, it makes the person they are following someone they supported, and thus makes them less likely to stir up trouble.

It seems that the next generation might be born before this venture is completed.

Well, that aside. Today is the day before the departure, and I felt like relaxing for awhile. I invited Father Elf to join me at the hot spring.

I took him to the guest section and not the ones inside the cave, I have to keep the image of the hot spring to be similar to everyone. Not that there was that great of a difference, but I wanted to gain extra publicity from this venture.

Father Elf's reaction and overall experience was good, he apparently plans to spread the word of the hot spring to several of his noble friends.

Of course, as an added bonus, some high quality food was also served, courtesy of the Sisters. It was well presented and delicious. I think it's one of my more favorite dishes.

The party was full of laughter and was fully satisfying, especially once I brought out the barrels of Elven wine. Suddenly it became a banquet. Since we had used the external training grounds, we set up a campfire and danced till late in the evening.

The newcomers and the veterans alike gathered around and celebrated a good time, its a good sight to see.

While taking in this sight, I raise my glass to Father Elf,

"Cheers to a good friendship."

With this we drink once more, soon Father Elf departs with an escort I provided, just to ensure our benefactor returns safely during the night, he had consumed nearly as much alcohol as myself. After seeing him off, we set out to clean the area now that the festivities are through with.

Soon I found myself returning to my chamber and falling asleep.

It's been a good day.

Day 90

Today is finally the day of departure.

I produced some more Black Skeleton Knights, several dozen or so. At the moment, there's roughly 100 Black Skeletons within the cave. So as long as an army doesn't come through, the people that are staying behind combined with my Skeletons should be able to deal with any number of threats.

I've already seen to it that a list of tasks that needs to be taken care of has been left behind and set half of the Skeletons under joint command under several of the high leveled Hobgoblins that are staying behind. Just because I'm gone doesn't mean that the settlement's development grinds to halt afterall.

As for the Elves, a deep rooted friendship has been forged through the fires of war, as well as the sharing of the hot spring, which has become a popular attraction that many elves visit each day for a modest sum. Food is also available for a price as well. Just the operation of the hot spring was left to a handfull of Hobgoblins. Its not a hard task so there's not much to worry about.

It's fine to keep a habit of being overly prepared and thorough.

For the first time in my new life, I will advance out of the forest.

The Grassland and the gusts of wind that lies before us in the open plains was a welcomed sight. I greeted it gladly.

Before us, stands an unknown world.

Our target is the fortress city of ≪Trient≫ of the Sternbild Kingdom!

Day 91

Yesterday afternoon, we had begun our journey from the forest. Since our horses are merely my Skeletons Centipedes, they don't require any rest, so we could have probably gone in a single go without stopping. Though our wagon train still calls far too much attention to us. Several dozen undead horses literally running down the road makes it an extremely noticeable convoy. I suppose as long as we keep moving in earnest, we won't greatly disturb the communities within the grasslands beyond the forest. Our mission, this time, was to leave the forest, the hills, the mountain, and trek into the unknown to discover the fortress city of Trient. There should probably be enough time today for us to arrive there before night fall.

We might have even managed to make it there already, but we decided to spend the night in a nearby village on the prairie, so we're currently stopped in the grasslands.

The name of the village we stayed in was Clute, its population is roughly three hundred people. I'd have to say it's a little plain, with just the minimum level of agriculture to sustain it. Hmm, actually, it looks a lot like the village I was born in during my life as a human. The forest that we were born in was apparently called Kuuderun Great Forest where it is famed for the high-quality wood. Even the administrator of Velvet's dungeon had informed me that due to the high density of magic in the area, some wooden products made from the trees of the forest could have magical properties and were famous for making musical instruments. It appears this town also has a shop that makes their livelihood from selling these pieces.

I decided that it was worth sating my curiosity on the matter and headed over to the shop. In all honesty, these items were actually stunning; they were imbued with the power of the spirits of the forest. No wonder they are such a popular commodity with the rich and nobility of this nation. If anyone ever wanted to become a famous [Job-Bard], they would certainly have an easy time of it if they had something like this.

Originally, it seems that there was nothing but grassland in this area until several years ago. The story apparently goes that several craftsmen following a rumor of high quality lumber settled and built several houses around each other to begin practicing their trade. They were so successful that soon, others followed them here, and in time, this so-called craftsmen's village was formed. I'd say, given the growth, this town might actually be nearly twice its size in several years.

Because the craftsmen masters reap such high levels of business from the aristocracy of this kingdom, it seems that if you are skilled enough, you could actually rise through the ranks of nobility, given enough time. One such individual is apparently so skilled, that he created man-made creatures called [Golems] that are in charge of protecting the village.

In short, these guardians are Iron Golems, though they don't have much more offensive power than a Hobgoblin, they have massive bodies with high endurance values. From what I have seen so far from walking around, there are about five or so of these creatures. As added defenses, they have installed trenches, ditches, and a man named Kikabe installed a watchtower.

According to Redhead, she had met several well privileged merchants that had made their starts in this town. It's safe to say that these people have quite a large sense of safety in the world, it almost annoys me how ignorant some people can be.

Soon enough, I found myself wandering full circle around the exterior of the village. After seeing the black bodies of the Skeleton horses I had created, I decided to use one of the items from my box to change them into normal looking brown horses. It was a ring that I had gained from Velvet's dungeon. It allowed me to change how certain objects or people appear for a certain period of time.

After that, I made my way into the inner parts of the city after seeing that everyone had not yet made ready to depart. Part of my reasoning to do this was because, during my stroll, I had heard several persons discussing some form of trouble that is causing strife for the villagers. Seeing the possibility for a job I made my way inward.

This village has apparently been having issues for several months now where the Orc clans have been causing trouble and growing aggressive. These Orcs had apparently not caused much in the way of trouble in the past and mostly keep to themselves in the forest. When I heard that these were monsters of the forest, that suddenly grabbed my attention. This may have something to do with me and my attack on the main Orc compound a while back.

According to a villager, around 10 years ago, a deal had been struck with the Orc tribes of the forest to cease their raids on the village in return for the transfer of some female slaves once every six months. Apparently, it was more convenient to do so, due to the high income of the village rather than risking lives to fight the Orcs and their constant raids up till now.

However, the Orcs have recently begun to break their contract, and on the contrary, have begun attacking the groups that have gone logging. In doing so this time, they have supposedly captured the daughter of an influential member of the community. I was told that this was the seventh large attack in recent months, with the Orc's attacks growing more rapid each time.

I hear there are quite a number of them, but they haven't taken the risk of attacking the village directly as of yet, even though Orcs are a type of monster that, if there were several of them, would be able to kill an Iron Golem. Though the Iron Golems are strong, with the size of this village, you can't protect everything with only five Iron Golems. It would be up to the villagers to fight should they come under full-assault from the Orc tribe. As it is, the villagers are no longer able to safely obtain the high-quality wood material.

The Orcs have been pretty friendly to the village over the past decade, so this level of brutality has left the village in a state of confusion. Though Orcs have some humanoid characteristics, in the end, they are still just monsters. That's where the general consensus is heading - Typical human mentality.

The history of this village is short, and not many have spent much of their lives in this village. Though they are pleased with their lives here, especially the skilled craftsmen that have invested so much into the town over the past decade, there is risk that the village may have to be abandoned if the Orc raids continue.

These humans have no fighting mentality whatsoever and would prefer to cut their losses rather than die. To leave their village and all of their hard work without even putting up a fight. Hmph, I suppose this also qualifies as human behavior.

Though I would normally not care too much about the sufferings of the humans, there could be business to be made through trading with this village since they use the spirits of the forest in their crafts.

Since the only place that would be able to dispatch a punitive request to deal with the Orcs would be the governing town Guild, I went there to offer our services, for a just reward suited to saving their entire village of course. I don't like charity unless it benefits me.

Ah, right. I think I may have figured the root of the crisis that this village is facing. It seems that I truly am at the center of this incident. It was myself and the rest that had robbed the Orcs of their base of operations and slew their leader. Given that probably most Orcs don't have that much intelligence to begin with, cutting off the head of their clan probably sent the survivors into a tribal civil war. There was probably several divisions over the next leader, with each out to secure their own survival. So far, survivors from their raids pin that there are probably between thirty and forty surviving Orcs from the dozens that were slain at the mine.

It may have been that all of the Orcs with even the slightest bit of wisdom had been present at the mine during our attack. As such, all of their supplies, leaders, Mages, and organizational hierarchy were all wiped out. The survivors are probably no more than mere beasts that rely on pure instinct. A better way to picture what is going on is to imagine all of the survivors are like Ogakichi-kun without my influence. With their food running short, they are attacking the closest source of food possible, meaning the town and those that went out to collect the lumber.

Orcs were never really that weak, but as we are now there would be no trouble in removing the threat. For normal untrained human civilians however, an Orc is a frightening proposition when you bring up the discussion of fighting back. It would be extremely difficult to subdue the Orcs to ensure the safety of their lumberjacks.

Recent sightings of the Orcs portray them as far more skinny than they had been previously, an obvious sign that they are struggling to secure proper sources of food.

The Orcs probably held off on attacking the humans until hunger got the better of them, and they came looting the humans even though they remembered the warnings that their superior's had told them before we slaughtered them all. Since the crop fields were almost totally undefended, the Orcs also struck there.

Sigh, since this is a problem that I have caused, I suppose I can't just leave it as it is. Especially if, for some reason, it comes to light that it was me who caused the Orcs to attack the human settlement, who knows what the results would be. Most likely, my relations with the humans would be tarnished for a very long time. Not that I feel sorry for kicking the Orcs out of the mines. The spirit stones that were extracted from the Orc mines were far worth the cost to the humans. The experience at the time was also nice.

Spirit stones are precious to the humans and many other races for their magical properties. If I were able to clear out the remaining Orcs, selling them here would bring an enormous pile of gold in. Since this place has such a high demand for high-quality magical materials, I see this place almost as if it were filled with trees that grew money. Its not something that my greedy heart could just pass up. Well, for now I'll keep the information I've discovered concealed while I discuss the matter of a contract to deal with the Orcs. For me, what I have done to the Orcs is a thing in the past.

Its not like I have anything against the Orcs, but, with the idea of gathering a reward, I pushed any possible morals aside. Though as a consolation, I suppose I'll throw in the treatment for all the injured people created from the constant Orc raids. There is even benefit in doing this. It makes me appear as a benevolent soul in their eyes. I may even be given special prices for my goods once this is all over.

Anyway, with the contract with Clute Village made, I had a few small conversations with some of the head Guild members before I made my way out. If I play my cards right, I could turn this short-term contract into a formal long-term contract to protect the village from future attacks. Even this would be in my benefit. If I'm going to be doing business with these people by selling them our spirit stones, I may as well makes sure it doesn't get

pillaged or razed to the ground. With myself being sure of the future of this deal, I made my way back.

After the contract was made, it wasn't even evening before all of the Orcs were being fried up as roasted pork. The village's Orc problem has been all wrapped up. With a delicious meal thrown in, I can accept that price of one day's worth of travels.

While we were wiping out the Orcs, we made sure to not harm the human women in their possession. By taking this caution, we managed to recover the three women that had been kidnapped during the Orc raids. When we returned, a deal was signed for the future protection of the settlement. With the deal struck, I sent for ten Goblins and ten Hobgoblins led by a Hobgoblin Mage to garrison the village. They should arrive within a day or so and would be greeted with great kindness upon arriving at the village.

The trust I gained from this was great.

While keeping the slave women would be nice, I decided to free them and leave them in the village. I gave the Guild Master a request to treat them as equals, to which he agreed to.

I think the environment of this village is better than before.

That's good. The better the relations with a village, the better the business.

As we were back on the road, the effects of the ring wore off.

I decided to eat the ring for the chance of picking up the ability for myself

Ability learned: 【Shapeshift】

For now, I changed the color of my body to be more human like, though I left my tattoos as is.

With that, we continue to proceed onward to our destination.

Day 92

We stopped several times on our way to the city. I took the time to examine the surrounding terrain carefully. My reason being that there could be plenty of tasty creatures that I haven't eaten yet. If there are, I want their abilities, simple as that.

The first creature we came across was a Boruforu, a mixed creature that seemed to be the love child of a Rhino, Buffalo and a Wild Boar. The next creature was a Turtle Snake, a roughly two meter long snake with thirty centimeter long red plates along its body. There was also the Blade Rabbit, a simple Horned Rabbit that had a beard of sharp blades and a blade on its forehead. The last creature was called a Harpy, it was a quite human-like, but with bird features and a large set of wings.

While all those encountered yielded no abilities, hunting them still was enjoyable to break up the drawl of the trip.

This trip has so far been pretty peaceful. Unlike the forest, where enemies who hide their presence could strike out of nowhere, there are no blind spots for enemies to approach us in these wide open plains. I spotted a Blade Rabbit in the corner of my eye and instantly launched an attack at it. At Redhead's current level, she still has a bit of trouble with these, so I gave the motion for Dhammi-chan to distract it with magic while Redhead went in for the kill. Since both of my familiars have Ranked-up, they are both very daunting for most opponents.

Since we left Dhammi-chan's triple horn horse <<Familiar>> back at the base due to various circumstances, she was riding on Kurosaburou who had ranked-up into a "Black Dire Wolf"(Orthoros). Redhead was mounted on Kumajirou because of the strength difference between Dhammi-chan and Redhead. However, despite the logic involved in this, Dhammi-chan seemed to be envious of Redhead, I wonder why...

When we came across a herd of a few dozen Boruforu I decided to stop the convoy for a hunt. I threw some camouflage on the Skeleton Horses using one of my abilities. I've

practiced with my camouflage abilities a little bit since the village. I want to avoid the same surprise that resulted when we pulled in with a convoy pulled by Skeleton Horses. For the hunt I let Kumajirou and Kurosaburou take care of most of the work, they had been quite idle since departing from our settlement. Because both of them are natural hunters the hunt was done in a quick and effective fashion. After that was the collecting and processing of the materials.

Long story short, Redhead informed me that Boruforu materials are actually an expensive commodity that is used for tools and medicine.

Even though I heard that, I still ate five of them myself. It was about the same as I would normally eat for breakfast anyway.

Ability [Rhinoceros Bone Body Armor] learned

Ability [Desensitizing] learned

Damn. I ate quite a large amount, but I still only gained two abilities from them because of our power difference. Oh well, I shouldn't let it bother me that much, it's not like the two abilities I got were inadequate or anything. Though I don't think I'll be needing either of them anytime soon.

Well, even if I hadn't gotten any abilities from them, the meat was still some of the best I've had to date. We roasted it. The meat instantaneously melted in my mouth, the texture was so amazing and the taste of the meat was incredible. Comparing the taste to the appearance would be the same as fraud. Needless to say, Boruforu meat is now one of my favorite meals.

After a while, we came across another Blade Rabbit. When you think about it, it's small prey for Dhammi-chan and I, but it's still good practice for Redhead. While she fought the rabbit, I gathered two more for her to fight. While this was going on, I brewed up a little of the tea Father Elf had passed onto me during the day before our departure. I pulled out some rice crackers and took a slight break. After all of that roasted meat the tea was a nice touch.

With the blood of the first Blade Rabbit, Redhead's eyes glowed a deeper red, and her power increased. This fact has everything to do with her job [Noir Soldier], which allows her to grow stronger with each monster she consumes. While she fought, I sat down next to Alchemist-san, and we shared a cup of tea. I mentioned that Redhead now requires to consume monsters at regular intervals or else her body would decay. She was still surprised at Redhead's sudden burst of strength and speed.

I offered Redhead some praise after she had finished her kills. I healed her wounds while stroking her deep red hair. After her wounds were taken care of, I provided her a shower with [Hydro Hand]. The reasoning is because she went a little overboard and tore the rabbits apart, drenching herself in blood. After she cleaned up, I quickly did the same for her cloths and she got dressed.

By noon, we had come across a lair of Turtle Snakes. Apparently, Turtle Snakes dig a dense nest of interlocking tunnels like ants. It's pretty bizarre though I didn't get frustrated over it. I used [Echolocation] to find them and gathered them all together in one swoop.

Using my ability [Earth Control], I pushed them all to the surface without actually disturbing them. During the day, they sleep so this hunt should be easy. Since they were asleep, we took our time to carefully slay each one without damaging any materials that could be worth quite a bit of money later. Unfortunately, during the process they began to wake up, and I had to call several members over to help deal with them. Afterwards, a battle ensued as the remaining snakes of the initial eighty-eight snakes woke up in a startled fashion and began attacking. Since they were pretty low level compared to us, we were able to take our time to kill each one without damaging the valuable shells.

I personally killed thirty-eight of them in an instant. Even Redhead managed to slay a dozen of them. Blacksmith-san and the sisters prepared a meal with some of the meat. It was pretty good, better than a Night Viper. With some Elven liquor, the meal was outstanding.

Ability [Shell Retreat] learned

Ability [Dormant] learned

The taste was good, but since it will sell well, I'll hold off on eating anymore.

Although I also wanted to have some more Harpy, there weren't any in the sky, and the constant hunting and bloodshed was playing havoc with Blacksmith-san's health. For these reasons, I cut the hunting short and decided to continue moving towards our destination.

Up ahead, I saw a mountain path. I decided to take it. I wonder if there are any monsters along the mountain path...

Day 93

We mostly went along via the mountain path, though sometimes the path was too narrow or the road had become overgrown. In total, there were three different paths that others had developed over the years. The one I decided to take us down ended up being the one along the riverside. It seemed to be the most heavily traveled and thus the safest in terms of transportation. The strongest monster in this region is the Hind Bear. Supposedly, there is also a boss-class Hind Bear similar to the Lord of the Forest that I had defeated earlier.

Also, the strength of this boss monster that inhabits the cliffs is apparently far beyond that of the Lord of the Forest. Along with the Hind Bears there is also a species of bird that lives on the mountain. It seems that it's a large eagle with brown feathers and four wings called a "Falaise Eagle". The average size of a Falaise Eagle is about two meters, and the span of its wings is roughly double that. The size is certainly enough to intimidate lesser opponents. It seems that it can also secrete a paralyzing poison from its claws.

Say what you want, but it certainly is a nasty monster to have to fight when you are making the trek on a path overlooking a cliff. I was informed that there weren't too many of them in the mountains, so at the very least, that is a benefit. Oh, and there is also a boss-class subspecies of the Falaise Eagle that leads them called the Jade Eagle. It can generate a small tornado from its mouth, which can force weaker prey off of the cliffs to their demise. The tornado is also said to change form into a torrent of blades that chops up enemies. Luckily, one of the humans I brought with me has extensive knowledge of this area.

He informed me that he used to live nearby and had heard stories about each of the mountain's creatures. The Red Bear here was powerful, but it moved alone. Since we're in a group, even if we encounter it, the bear shouldn't prove to be an issue. Though for now, it's best if we move as a group.

With our group moving in tight proximity to one another, we were quite secure whenever a Falaise Eagle appeared. They flew very fast and were hard to hit with most attacks. They would always strike at your blind spot to initiate the engagement. Being on a cliff, they

were generally hard to deal with. However, thanks to my weapons and abilities, I had sufficient range capabilities to deal with them. Coupled with my ability 【Sense Presence】, attacking my blind spot proved a sure death sentence for the birds, and thus, I walked in front alone to draw the majority of them to me.

It was really surprising how easy it was to take them out once I got the hang of how their hunting instincts worked. We set out to strip the materials off of the eagles as I caught them. In total, we caught eighteen of them. Once we got in to a clearing, we fried and ate them. They were quite large, so the meal was satisfying.

The taste of the meat was quite delicious. I wanted to eat more, but there weren't that many in the mountains to begin with. I should probably avoid killing too many or I'll risk killing the population in the mountains.

Ability learned: [Panic Voice]
Ability learned: [Wing Growth]
Ability learned: [High-Speed Flight]
Ability learned: [Wind Reading]
Ability learned: [Paralysis Claw]
Ability learned: [Paralysis Resistance]

Around two in the afternoon, we reached a point on the road where the path widened greatly. This served to make myself feel far more secure now that the risk of being knocked off the cliff or the ridge collapsing is gone. The only concern is that this area has scattered piles of bones from various animals. There is probably a nest of a strong monster nearby. Eventually, we came across the signs of a fight: the fragments of human bones, armor and weaponry were scattered all about. These must be remnants of some humans that had come to subdue the beast that lingers on this path.

Just as I think this, I hear the hum and beating of wings and my Foresight warns me of the danger. In that very instant, my skin is beaten with a burst of wind that hit so hard, it felt like hundreds of razors hitting my flesh all at once. In the sky, I saw five Falaise Eagles. In

addition, a substantially larger Jade Eagle subspecies was among them. All together, this group had an intense presence.

This feeling was far greater than the feeling I had when confronting the Lord of the Forest. When our eyes met, an uncomfortable feeling spiked around the nape of my neck. Their intention was certain: They came here for the kill.

The jade feathers of the subspecies sparkled like blades in the sunlight, seeming like they could cut anything. His beak and claws looked as if they were as strong as diamonds. It moved far faster than any of the other Falaise Eagles, striking from all directions rather than just from behind, making this opponent far more difficult to combat than the predictable average Falaise Eagles.

I saw a great deal of intelligence from the pair of big yellow eyes looking down at me. A supreme killer of the mountains with a stunning quality of grace earned through many battles of survival. From a first look, the fact that its color is altered means that it has probably obtained a [Divine Protection] with its own special system of abilities, just like the Lord of the Forest. For me, I desperately wanted to capture and eat this creature.

Leaving the rest of the party to defense, I grew wings like that of an insects using my [Elytron Generation], making an instant burst of speed to lunge at the enemy overlooking me in the sky. My halberd in hand and aimed at the core of the enemy.

An hour passed as I continued to battle my foe in the skies. My opponent was very powerful and had an advantage in the sky. It moved as fast as a bolt of lightning. If it wasn't for my latest ability, [High-Speed Flight], I may not have survived this engagement. Over the course of the fight, I got an understanding of just how much combat this beast has experienced to become what it is now. It used several attacks, including creating a series of mini tornadoes to disrupt my balance. With low experience with my wings, getting adjusted to fighting in the air with such an opponent was quite difficult. I can't even begin to count how many times my body has been ripped apart by its beak or how many times it's huge nails covered with paralysis toxins stung into my flesh and organs.

By this time, my whole body has been stained with blood, and many body fluids have been drained and lost. Even the Eagle's feathers were as sharp as blades, so even a successful dodge would not entail that I escaped without damage. There were no rules in this fight, however. Whenever I wasn't able to dodge an attack, I would use my metal arm as a shield from its claws. If it wasn't for this, I would have taken over another thousand strikes more than I already have. Apparently, there is even an effect from its saliva that inhibits recovery speeds. Whenever I was bitten, I would have to suppress the bleeding by tightening the muscles around the injury until I managed to purge the toxins. The subspecies' escorts were easily dispatched within the first ten minutes of the fight, though I had paid a heavy price for placing special attention to evening the numbers.

Fortunately, with [Severe Pain Tolerance] and [Desensitizing] even the most grievous of my wounds did not hurt, however, the fact that these injuries existed at all still needed to be remembered and dealt with. All of the martial arts that I have mastered were almost useless in the air, and all of my magical abilities were too difficult to manage due to a heavy level of my focus being spent on dodging and keeping myself in the air.

However, it is not like I was the only one taking damage. As I had said earlier, all five of the other Falaise Eagles had been taken care of early on in the fight. As for the subspecies, I had managed to cut off one of its legs with my halberd and punctured several holes in its body with the tip of my weapon. The feathers of the Jade Eagle are stained with blood in several places. I certainly am not losing out in my ability to fight regardless of the terrain.

Still, being unfamiliar with the sky had become my shackles and prevented a greater majority of my abilities from being usable. Some of my resistances were useless if I wanted to remain in the air, and others, I couldn't use because I could not keep near the Jade Eagle for longer than a fraction of a second at a time. Even though this battle has raged on for over an hour, neither of us has shown even the slightest drop in speed.

As the battle intensified, my halberd was knocked from my hands towards the cliff. Luckily, it landed and stuck in to the road, so it was easily retrievable. Though in my current situation, recovering it in the middle of the fight was highly unlikely.

Whether the Jade Eagle saw the loss of my weapon as an opportunity or not, it took a deep breath and slightly withdrew, putting a large amount of distance between us. In an instant, my chest had been struck with the Jade Eagle's beak, spinning around like a raging storm.

The Jade Eagle had created a giant gust of wind and had shot straight through my body with an impossible to see level of speed that was almost unreal. Its speed must come from it's [Divine Protection]. Its body was covered with damage and scratches, so this ability must have been a last resort. At that moment, I coughed up a lot of blood, and even with all of my abilities, the pain was severe. With where it went through, my spine has probably been severed, and many of my organs are probably heavily damaged as well. This is really bad. Screams rose out from Redhead, Dhammi-chan and the rest of the party. Even Ogakichi-kun was shouting out with a worried look on his face.

With this, the Jade Eagle was convinced of its victory and went to begin feeding.

In this moment, the abilities that I use will decide who will win the battle. With the Jade Eagle's guard down, this could be my chance to finish this in one go. My body is several times stronger than that of a normal Ogre, so this blow was not enough to kill me, though the damage was severe. In this fraction of a second, I thought of the reward that could be gained by slaying this bird and decided to go at it with every last bit of strength that I had in earnest.

In less than a tenth of a tenth of a second, I activated many abilities that I hadn't used thus far in the previous battles because I had wanted to enjoy the fight on equal grounds.

My right metal arm was dripping with blood, but secretly, I was using it to store and produce more blood with an ability that I had shared with it using [Synthesis] called [Fluid Restoration]. Using the blood I had been producing, I instantly recovered all of the blood lost during the entire fight. Coupling this ability with [High-Speed Playback] and [High Speed Healing], my entire body was recovered in an instant. Using my Metal Arm, I cut off its other leg, fully removing a great level of its danger to myself.

Following up, I used [Exoskeleton Equip], which turned my flesh into something resembling a beetle. To further strengthen my shell, I added [Black Ogre's Strong Body] in

addition to [Solid Armored Dragon Scales] to greatly increase my defense. In response, the shell turned black, and scale-like plates developed over the exoskeleton. With this, my body was nearly impossible to penetrate with anything the Jade Eagle was capable of.

In the split second it took to form my armor, I spun a thick version of my Golden Thread around the eagle's wings and used my ability that controls gravity to greatly increase the gravity around the eagle. It put up a great amount of resistance and managed to cut some of my threads, but after I enhanced my golden thread with resistances to physical damage, there was nothing more it could do.

The Jade Eagle plummeted towards the ground. Even at the speed it fell, the crater it left was pretty small. A normal creature would have been splattered on the ground after the impact it received, but it appears it sacrificed two of its wings to lessen the impact. Even with that, it is still pretty amazing it wasn't dead.

After I collected my halberd, I finally ended the Jade Eagle's suffering. I collected a jewel from the center of its head and several vials-full of liquid coming out of its body. After collecting the jewel and the liquid, I began carefully removing all of its parts, slowly stripping the skin as to not damage even the slightest follicle. When I got to the heart, I noticed a jade-colored stone with a cobblestone-like texture.

I used my [Item Appraisal] on it and discovered that the item was called [Lord's Spirit Stone of a Falaise Eagle].

I instantly thought to share this discovery with the others and showed my latest find to everyone, who in an instant, realized that it was the same type of stone on those who Ranked-up into a "Lord" class.

When I looked into it further, it seems that this class of item is indeed from the [Spirit Stone] category where it is [Legendary] level of rarity.

These objects are apparently present within boss-level monsters. Even among powerful monsters, these items are incredibly rare. The more powerful the monster, the larger the stone they carry within them.

Having said that, coupled with the fact that facing a boss that possesses a spirit stone is no easy task in and of itself, many famous monsters throughout this world's history have been said to carry these types of spirit stones called [Lord Stones]. In the past, it has taken entire armies to challenge monsters that had grown powerful enough to obtain a Lord Stone. Sometimes, it has been said that these armies that gathered to fight the monsters were annihilated.

Therefore, something as rare as a Lord Stone could sell for enough money to buy a small country. However, the only people with enough money to purchase such a thing are monarchs of large nations or famous merchants that hold monopolies over the trade of several nations. These stones are used in the fabrication of unmatched magical items of with amazing war potential.

With this discovery, I had decided that I was still going to eat it, but the others thought that it would be best to hold onto it and sell it later. The money gained could be of great benefit. With everyone else adamant on this end I placed the Lord Stone and several other materials from the Jade Eagle into my item box.

While I was still picking off the jade-green feathers to finish skinning the Jade Eagle, my exoskeleton wore off. After eating several feathers, I got the weird desire to activate my exoskeleton again. This time, my shell was more bird-like in appearance. This must be the influence of the bird's feathers. I tried flying as a test and this change made flying far easier than it had been before with even my speed being drastically increased.

With the battle over, I decided that I simply had to partake in eating the Jade Eagle now. I couldn't wait and began and eating it raw. Right after biting in, I cried out involuntarily.

"Delicious!!"

Ability learned: [Feather Arrow]
Ability learned: [Predator of the Sky]
Ability learned: [Divine Protection of the Storm God]
Ability learned: [Complete Wind Resistance]
Ability learned: [Adamantine Claw]
Ability learned: [Sonic Flight]

With these abilities unlocked, I was more than satisfied. Many of these abilities looked very useful. After that, I set out to cook the rest of the meat and share a portion with everyone.

Looking over to the skeletons in the area, I decided that I'd at least give them a proper burial and cremated what was left of their bodies since I wouldn't get any abilities from them anyway. Though as payment, I decided to keep all of the equipment they had left behind. There were several items that seemed to contain potions or chemicals of some kind. On top of that, there was a large amount of gold and equipment, which I appreciated receiving, even if the collection of the equipment was a bit crude.

{Namu Amida Butsu}

After a short, silent prayer over the pyre, we proceeded on our travels.

Although we were making progress, I started to have mixed feelings, an almost sense of apprehension. For now, I'll just keep my guard up and some of my abilities on high alert. I never know where an attack might come from. All I can say is that I feel a crushing gaze beating upon me.

Day 94

It started raining pretty heavily today. Because the rain and wind started making our travels pretty difficult, I decided it was best to stop somewhere. Luckily, after only a short while of trudging in the rain, I noticed a 'Rest Station' 30 meters off the side of the road. We pulled up and left the carriages outside as we went in. A group of peddlers who had entered before us and a party of average-looking adventurers appeared frightened the moment they saw me enter. They were emitting quite a bit of blood lust, so I took out two barrels of sake that ended up being passed around to everyone that was there.

That disarmed the situation for the time being. I sold the materials we had gained since we started our journey, such as the Turtle Snake shells and some personal effects that had been looted from the corpses of the adventurers in the mountain. I also took part in a small bit of trading as well.

At first, the humans were still quite frightened of me, but after Blacksmith-san walked in, they gradually calmed down and opened up. Later, a human and a beast who entered the Rest Station were surprised by my existence, but ended up not attacking because they felt the atmosphere was enough to judge that I wasn't dangerous. I could have eaten them if they decided to fight me. It's almost a shame they didn't. Around noon, the Sisters had prepared lunch with some of the other humans of our convoy. We were invited to gamble after we finished eating, and I decided to participate because I had the time. Winning some extra gold never hurt either.

The game they were playing was similar to blackjack. After a brief description of the rules, I decided I would play with the money I looted from back at the mountain. The results ended in a total victory on my part. This is, in part, due to my [Golden Rule] and my [Luck]. The merchants continued to play until I had literally stripped them bare. After I sorted through all of my winnings, I returned some articles and their clothing since I was only interested in some of the items that I had won.

I didn't return their money or the supplies, but it didn't feel right to see a naked man standing in front of me. There was also a sort of guilty feeling there, since using my abilities in a gambling match was kind of like cheating.

I spent most of the day at the rest station because the rain didn't seem like it was going to let up. I probably would have been able to keep going with the Skeleton Horses since the carriage has a roof installed, but I thought it was best to wait until the rain stopped since there wasn't any hurry.

I practiced some combat [Arts] and battle styles with Dhammi-chan and Redhead in a corner of the Rest Station to kill some time. Though they seemed to have found their own unique fighting styles, their attacks are a bit plain, and they tend to rely too much on their natural skills. Therefore, I think they need to train more.

So for the time being, I decided to give a lecture about the necessity of learning how to refine their skills. After that, I decided to practice with some of my own abilities, such as [Wind Demon's Gale] and [Burning Demon's Flame].

Thanks to my knowledge from my previous life, I remember all of the martial arts that I had been taught, and with the [Arts] skill, teaching them should not be too difficult.

During my practice with Dhammi-chan and Redhead, some of the adventurers were watching us and suddenly walked up and wanted to join in on the lesson. Among them, there were several individuals with either [Job-Boxer], [Job-Swordsman], and/or [Job-Warrior]. I pulled out some wooden spears and wooden swords from my item box and handed them over to the new group.

Although I tried my best to hold back to my bare minimum, and even though I was against an entire crowd, I suppose I was just too strong for them. After several minutes, most of them were lying on the ground, unconscious. It was a good exercise, but a bit too short. After that, everyone left and went about their business.

I wonder why...

Day 95

The rain continued to pour down, and now the road is flooded and muddy. It also seems that the number of members within the rest stop has grown since then.

A deputy branch manager from Trient began discussing matters of making repairs to the rest stop due to the minor flooding caused in the area. He came out of his room with the group of adventurers that played the part of his escort.

To put it bluntly, the man is a plump, bald, middle-aged man who makes no effort to make himself seem modest. To note, he happened to be one of the men who had joined the group I was gambling with. He turned out to be quite an inveterate gambler and ended up using most of his goods as collateral after he lost all of his gold.

Although why such a deputy manager would be wandering around in a place like this, gambling away most of his possessions, is unknown. What I can say is that, aside from his gambling problem, he possessed abilities of an undisputed level of talent. His ability to manage the affairs of repairing the rest stop was fast and efficient.

As for cleaning out most of his possessions, he was more or less reasonable about it. At the very least, he doesn't outright treat me as some form of villain.

Since making any progress in the rain would be slow and risk damaging the carriage, as well as possibly damaging the Skeleton Horses, I decided to make the most of the situation and gain some information on current events.

In short, I discovered that the Sternbild Kingdom's princess had been successfully healed with the elixir that the Kirika Empire's Heir had brought back, according to the deputy manager.

It is the first case of "Undead Disease" that has ever been cured, and apparently, the Sternbild Kingdom kept a few drops of the elixir for analysis to attempt to reproduce it.

Well, it wasn't discussed how they managed to retrieve the elixir without conquering the elves, but I decided to not press the matter further. At the very least, it seems there won't be any further attempts to attack the elves again. Due to the substantial losses incurred during the war, the idea of going back to subdue the elves had become quite unpopular; with a certain group of nobles returning from the war, leading the opposition.

It seems I wont need to return to defend the elves for the time being. Other than the talk and a short stroll around the rest stop, the day passed without much of further note.

Main Characters
主な登場人物
Hob-Sei
change to
Spe-Sei
Half Spell Lord
Hob-Ri(Sato)
change to
Blo-Ri(Sato)
Half Bloody Lord
Female Knight
from Kingdom
Dull Iron
Knight
from Empire
Father Elf
Daughter Elf
Gob-Kichi
change to
Ogra-Kichi
Ogre(Variant)
Gob-E change to
As-E
Half Earth Lord
Gob-Mi change to
Dham-Mi
Dhampir(Variant)
Gob-Rou change to
Ogra-Rou
Ogre(Rare)

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